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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-044
Monday
7 March 1988

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-88-044

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LD071415 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

War of the Cities—Iraq fired another 15 missiles at Tehran between 1430 GMT 4 March and 1100 GMT 7 March, while Iran launched 11 missiles at Baghdad 4-7 March. The strikes by Iraq's "Al-Husayn" missiles were announced in statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Iran's IRGC publicized its attacks in statements cited by IRNA, claiming that they were directed at military targets in the Iraqi capital. Iran also fired medium-range missiles at Basra and four other Iraqi cities over the weekend, according to Iranian military statements reported by Tehran radio.

The missile bombardment was accompanied by further air raids on cities in both countries. Voice of the Masses broadcast announcements of 27 raids on Iran 5-6 March: the targets included Hamadan, Kashan, Dezful, Bakhtaran, Arak, Khorramabad, and Shiraz. Iranian aircraft raided targets in Kifri, Irbil, and Al-Mawsil 5-7 March, according to statements reported by Tehran radio and IRNA.

Effects of the Attacks—Iraqi statements carried by Voice of the Masses and INA reported that Iranian missile, air, and artillery attacks caused an unspecified number of civilian casualties. In Tehran, Iraqi missile strikes 4-7 March killed at least 66 people and injured many more, according to reports by IRNA. The agency also disclosed that 61 civilians were killed and 427 wounded in the wave of Iraqi air attacks on 6 March.

Iranian Supreme Judicial Council President 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili had earlier downplayed the effectiveness of the Iraqi missiles, telling worshippers in a Friday sermon broadcast by Tehran radio that only 24 Iranians were killed in the first 25 missiles fired at Tehran. He also claimed that Iran's missiles have much greater destructive power than those used by Iraq.

Nevertheless, IRNA noted that the attacks on 4 March prompted Tehran citizens to urge a "firmer response" against the Iraqi attacks, and Tehran radio subsequently acknowledged that Iraqi air and missile strikes have caused "heavy" damage and losses. A 6 March Tehran radio commentary also stressed the "fundamental necessity" of constructing shelters to protect people from missile attacks.

As for Iraqi air losses, INA carried statements denying Iranian claims to have downed 5 Iraqi planes over the weekend, but acknowledging the loss of one Iraqi aircraft over Iran 6 March.

Gulf Action—An Iraqi spokesman cited by Voice of the Masses stated that Iraqi naval units destroyed 5 out of 14 Iranian boats that attempted to attack the offshore Al-'Amiq jetty 7 March. However, the IRGC said the attack was "successful" and destroyed installations on the jetty, according to Tehran radio.

In another development, IRNA claimed that two U.S. helicopters attempted to approach an Iranian zone in the Gulf 6 March but were "forced to flee" by antiaircaft fire from Iranian naval units.

Iran-USSR Dispute Over Missiles—The Soviet Foreign Ministry summoned the Iranian charge d'affaires in Moscow to express the Soviet leadership's "serious concern" over the situation of the Soviet Embassy in Tehran, TASS reported 6 March. The Iranian was told that his government must take "urgent immediate measures" to protect the embassy and other Soviet institutions in Iran and to stop "unrest and excesses."

TASS noted that this followed a demonstration in Tehran during which "unruly elements" attempted to break into the embassy grounds. "Hostile actions" were also committed against the USSR's Consulate General in Esfahan. TASS accused the Iranian mass media of instigating these incidents by holding the Soviet Union responsible for Iraq's missile attacks, a charge rejected by the Soviet side as "fabrications."

The anti-Soviet demonstrations by "students" in Tehran and Esfahan were reported by IRNA, which noted that "angry protestors" condemned the USSR for arming Iraq. They also displayed shrapnel of a Soviet-made missile which hit Tehran. Tehran radio had earlier contended that Soviet markings on the wreckage of missiles are evidence of Soviet "involvement" in the Iraqi missile attacks. Foreign Ministry official Mohammad Javad Larijani stated that Soviet denials of supplying Iraq with missiles are "not convincing" to Iran, according to IRNA.

Israel

Response to Shultz—The letter delivered by Secretary of State George Shultz containing the U.S. peace proposals is "not an ultimatum that must be followed to the letter" and it is "not a holy cow" to which Israel must answer yes or no, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir asserted in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem television 6 March. While acknowledging that the Israeli Government will have to decide on its reply to the United States "in the coming days," Shamir said he was informed by Shultz himself that changes can be made to the U.S. proposals.

Shamir added that he will try to reach agreement on alterations that will better suit Israel's interests during his forthcoming visit to the United States. He also stressed that Israel will be unable to reach "real, fruitful political negotiations without restoring full security in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el."

Shamir told the Cabinet the same day that it is not necessary to make a decision on the Shultz document before his trip to Washington as he wants to check on a few more matters connected to the document during his visit, according to Jerusalem radio. One issue of concern to Shamir is whether the UN secretary general would be empowered to invite PLO representatives to the international "conference," the radio said.

For the Alignment, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the radio that it is "inconceivable" that Shamir will go to the United States without a Cabinet decision, and he stressed that Israel must be seen to respond positively to the Shultz proposals irrespective of the response from the Arab side. An earlier Jerusalem radio report stated that the U.S. Administration is demanding an "unequivocal" answer from Israel by 15 March.

Territories—Seven Arabs were killed and around 14 wounded during further rioting in the West Bank and Gaza Strip 4-6 March, according to reports by Jerusalem and IDF radios. Most of the victims were from the West Bank, including one man who was shot by soldiers after an IDF unit came under fire during a 6 March riot at the 'Askar refugee camp. The IDF also made further arrests of "agitators" and demolished the houses of two Arabs who participated in the recent lynching of a man in Qabatiyah, Jerusalem radio noted.

Katyusha Attack—Five Galilee residents were injured by a crossborder Katyusha rocket attack the night of 5 March, Jerusalem radio reported. In Lebanon, the "Revolutionary Movement in Palestine" distributed a statement claiming responsibility for firing the rockets, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Palestinian forces in Lebanon have been placed on alert in anticipation of an Israeli retaliatory strike, Voice of Lebanon radio disclosed.

Arab Response to Shultz Tour

The U.S. willingness to discuss an international conference and the legitimate rights of the Palestinians is "good compared to previous U.S. Administration postures," Damascus radio asserted in a 5 March commentary. However, the radio warned that the international conference must not be a "front" for bilateral negotiations and the Arabs will under no circumstances be "dragged" to a conference of "capitulation to Israel's aggression and ambitions." While acknowledging that the United States now "seems to appreciate the seriousness of the regional situation," the radio criticized the "monopolistic" U.S. approach to peacemaking.

This Syrian comment followed President Hafiz al-Asad's meeting with Secretary of State Shultz the previous day. A Damascus television report on their talks noted that Al-Asad "voiced some opinions" about the written message delivered by Shultz containing the U.S. Administration's overall conception of the way to establish a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Shultz explained the contents of the message and requested that Syria study it and reply.

Shultz subsequently visited Cairo for talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who stated afterward that the U.S. proposals are "encouraging and require careful study," according to MENA.

In another development, an "informed source" in Amman disclosed that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has been invited to visit Jordan to continue coordinating stands and thereby help define a unified Arab stand on the U.S. proposals, Radio Monte Carlo reported. However, while the radio said Jordan views the U.S. proposals with "seriousness and interest," Palestinian officials cited by AFP said the PLO will strive to dissuade Jordan from backing the U.S. plan and will do everything possible to sabotage it.

Among continued hostile PLO comment on the Shultz mission, Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio broadcast a PLO Executive Committee statement 5 March accusing the secretary of state of using "pressure" to impose his plan on the Arab states. The statement warned against involvement in the new U.S. "scheme" and welcomed the Algerian president's call for an emergency Arab summit conference to support the Palestinian "uprising."

In a related interview cited by APS, Yasir 'Arafat expressed "amazement" that Shultz has opened a dialogue with Israel and several Arab countries, but has "ignored" the Palestinians. As for West Bank reaction to the U.S. proposals, the mayor of Ramallah told Jordan's SAWT AL-SHA'B that "there are no West Bankers who believe in autonomy," and he stressed that the only solution is Israel's complete withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza.

Regarding the booby-trapped car which was defused in Jerusalem during Shultz' latest visit, Jerusalem radio asserted that Fatah has issued an announcement in Beirut claiming responsibility for this unsuccessful attempt to assassinate Shultz. However, monitored Lebanese and Palestinian media have not been observed to carry any such announcement.

Lebanon

Action in South—An IDF force in Israel's "security zone" killed three "terrorists" who were attempting to infiltrate into Israeli territory the night of 5 March, Jerusalem television reported. Another three "terrorists" were killed in a 6 March clash with the SLA, Jerusalem radio disclosed.

Safety of Foreigners—Nasirite Popular Organization leader Mustafa Sa'd urged all foreigners living in Lebanon to leave the country because neither the people, the state, the parties, nor the Palestinians are capable of protecting them, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Sa'd also confirmed that British Oxfam official Peter Coleridge is being held and interrogated by a Palestinian group. Coleridge and a Syrian colleague were detained 4 March while taking photographs in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp near Sidon.

Egypt

Libyan and Saudi technicians arrived in Cairo from Riyadh 6 March to inspect the four Libyan Mig-23 warplanes that made emergency landings in Egypt last week, Cairo radio reported. In remarks carried by MENA, President Husni Mubarak announced that he had assured Saudi King Fahd that the planes would be returned to Libya as soon as they were inspected by competent experts, and he asked the king to dispatch such technicians. A "responsible source" told SPA that King Fahd became involved in response to a request from Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Libya

The Foreign Liaison Bureau announced that all foreign prisoners will be released into the custody of the appropriate envoy accredited to Libya, Tripoli radio reported 5 March, adding that this decision is in line with recent action by Libyan leader Col al-Qadhdhafi reaffirming the Al-Fatih revolution as a "declaration of freedom."

Afghanistan

French Citizens Killed—Two Frenchmen, who were providing "military training" to "extremists" stationed in Pakistan, were killed in a clash between rival opposition groups, BAKHTAR reported 6 March. According to Paris radio, the French Foreign Ministry declared that it has "no information" on the deaths and stressed that no "French military advisers" are aiding the Afghan rebels.

National Front Responsibilities—All national reconciliation commissions should henceforth report to the National Front, which will assune an "active and leading role in consolidating" their work, President Najibullah announced in a 6 March address carried by Kabul radio. The president added that this change is "necessary" because the National Front has good possibilities for contact with the opposition, and he called on the Front to "talk boldly" with the opposition.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Cited on Peace Plan, PLO UN Mission

JN041934 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Brother Yasir 'Arafat has criticized the United States because thus far it has not offered a solution that meets the Palestinian people's legitimate demands. In a press interview to be published in London tomorrow, 'Arafat said Washington will not offer the Palestinians any plans other than those that seek to perpetuate the enslavement of this people under occupation.

'Arafat recalled what happened in 1977 when the PLO refused to participate in the negotiations held at the Mena House Hotel in Egypt at the time with an independent delegation and said that what was rejected in the past cannot be accepted today. He added that any proposed solution that does not recognize the PLO and the right to self-determination also cannot be accepted.

On the United States' intention to close the PLO's Observer Mission at the United Nations, 'Arafat said the PLO will find a way to rehabilitate it within the framework of the United Nations and warned that the PLO will request that the Zionist entity be dismissed from the United Nations if Washington closes its UN mission.

'Arafat Sends Urgent Messages to PRC, USSR

JN042001 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1905 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received the PRC and Soviet ambassadors to Tunisia in Tunis at noon today. He asked both of them to convey urgent messages to the Soviet and Chinese leaderships on recent developments regarding the U.S Administration's moves and the return of its Secretary of State Shultz to the region carrying his dangerous plan to abort our Palestinian peoples blessed uprising in an attempt to liquidate our people's just cause and strike at our people's national gains achieved under the leadership of the PLO, their legitimate representative.

Our radio correspondent has learned that this message is the second to be sent by brother leader Abu 'Ammar to the Soviet leadership within the past 24 hours.

'Arafat Criticizes U.S. 'Mockery' of Arabs

LD052312 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Commenting on the agreement reached between the terrorist Shamir and the U.S. administration's envoy, Shultz, brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] said: It is amazing that the U.S. mockery of the Arab nation should reach the extent of Shultz having his command center in the occupied land next to the Zionist leadership. This clearly means and reveals the extent to which the U.S. Administration deals with the Arab weight. [sentence as heard]

This was said in a press statement made by the brother leader Abu 'Ammar in Tunis. He added: Shultz has only one plan in his bag—this is the Israeli plan which he is trying to execute and he is also trying to exert every means of U.S. pressure on a number of Arab countries. He said the main objective of this plan is to rescue Israel from its predicament and abort the blessed uprising of the heroic Palestinian people.

Brother Abu 'Ammar expressed his amazement at Shultz having started dialogue with Israel and a number of Arab countries, forgetting the Palestinian to whom the cause and right belong. This is because the true objective is to liquidate the Palestinian cause and abort the blessed uprising.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said the next few days would expose a demonic Israeli-U.S. plan which will grant Palestinians a civilian administration, only worse than that granted by the racist South African regime to the South African population.

He added: Shultz is making efforts to get Arab leaders with whom he is in communication to agree to these treacherous plans. He said: I leave judgment to the Arab masses from the ocean to the Gulf. As for Palestinians, there is nothing except to continue on the path of resistance and struggle with everything they have.

PLO To Attempt To 'Sabotage' U.S. Peace Plan

NC051311 Paris AFP in English 1303 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Tunis, March 5 (AFP)—The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will do everything it can to sabotage the U.S. plan for the Israeli-occupied territories, an unnamed Palestinian leader said here Saturday.

The PLO, which boycotted U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's Middle East tour, would also strive to dissuade Arab leaders, particularly Jordan, from backing the plan, other Palestinian sources said. [passage omitted]

The Central Committee of Fatah—the largest group in the PLO—has been in session since Monday to discuss the response to the latest U.S. initiative. Reliable sources said the PLO representative in Cairo, Sa'id Kamal, had come to Tunis to brief the PLO leadership on Mr Shultz's first round of talks with Egyptian leaders in February.

Yasir 'Arafat, the PLO chairman has described the Shultz plan as "dangerous" and designed to "destroy the Palestinian cause and the achievements of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO." The PLO leader has called for an Arab summit to discuss the Shultz plan which he claims will make an "Israeli-Arab condominium" of the occupied territories.

But Arab League Headquarters in Tunis said the PLO had so far made no formal request for a summit.

Mr 'Arafat has said he wants Arab leaders to adopt a "common position" on the U.S. proposals. Observers said his aim was to guard against independent initiatives by individual Arab governments.

PLO Issues Statement on U.S. Plan, Uprising

JN051719 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Statement issued by the PLO Executive Committee: place, date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. They want to extinguish the light of God, but God will perfect His light, though the unbelievers be adverse. [Koranic verse]

In the past 3 months of its glorious and long age, our people's great uprising has established a number of facts that have become axioms of the Palestinian and Arab struggle. The blessed uprising has confirmed the unity of our people, men, women, and children and of all our people's forces, organizations, bodies, and sectors and has underlined their participation in the sweeping popular rebellion in all the cities, villages, and refugee camps of our people and every inch of our occupied homeland to forge with our masses in the diaspora a creative and revolutionary harmony.

The uprising has also consolidated the unity of our people's cause and the unity of the goals of their struggle represented by repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state in their homeland, Palestine. Such unity was embodied by the slogans and demands raised by the uprising, baptized by pure blood, and illuminated by the martyrs within and without our occupied territory on the road of liberation, repatriation, and victory.

The uprising has also affirmed the unity of our people's representation by their complete rallying around the PLO, the leader of our people's struggle and their sole legitimate representative, thus shattering the illusions and the wagers of our people's enemies on the possibility of sidestepping the PLO or creating alternatives to it.

Our people's glorious struggle has enjoyed the support of the masses of our Arab nation and the peoples of the world. Israel's true face has been unmasked: a racist and facist state whose policy and methods are terrorism and repression. It has been condemned and isolated by the world's forces of peace and liberation, including Israeli and Jewish forces of peace and liberation, which have expressed their solidarity with the Palestinian people's struggle for their national rights and have condemned the crimes perpetrated by the Israeli occupation forces against the Palestinian masses.

Amid such facts and great changes brought about by our people's sweeping revolution—and which have caused great anxiety to imperialist and Zionist circles—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz moved to the area to abort the uprising, to attempt to control it and contain its results, and to rescue Israel, which rejects our people's national rights, especially their right to repatriation, self-determination, and to establish an independent national state, and which insists on dividing our people within the homeland and outside it and on rejecting the PLO and talking to it as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Shultz tried, by exerting all kinds of pressure, to impose his plan on the Arab states so they would accept it. Our masses have expressed their rejection of the new U.S. scheme by boycotting the U.S. secretary of state and refusing to deal with his plans and proposals. Our masses in all our occupied territory went out to denounce the U.S. plan and demanded with determination complete Israeli withdrawal from our Palestinian land. They emphasized their insistence on their inalienable national rights and called for the U.S. Administration's recognition of these national rights and of the PLO as their sole legitimate representative.

Vis-a-vis these conspiracies, the PLO stresses our people's cause and our militant national march. The PLO also stresses the continuation of its revolution and its solidarity as well as the continuation of our masses' uprising and our continued resistance against the occupying Zionist enemy. At the same time, the PLO declares our people's adherence to a just and comprehensive settlement through an international conference, which has powers and which will be attended by the five permanent Security Council member states with the participation of all concerned parties, including the PLO, on an equal footing with other parties. This aims to recognize and achieve the inalienable national rights of our Palestinian people, led by their right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent national state on Palestinian soil.

Today, these rights are no more subject to bargain or argument and are sacred matters that cannot be harmed or discounted. The PLO's representation of the whole Palestinian people today, as always before, cannot be argued or undermined. No party is allowed to tamper with or undermine the achievements our people have realized through their dear sacrifices and through the pure blood of their martyrs. While the PLO is warning against involvement in the new U.S. scheme, it calls on its masses inside and outside our occupied homeland to show vigilance and caution and to continue their valiant struggle, relying on the great support of our Arab masses and the backing granted to us by all world peoples and forces that love peace and freedom.

With the continuation of our brave struggle and sacrifices and also with the support and backing of our Arab nation and with the backing of our friends in the socialist, Islamic, African, and nonaligned states and of the friendly forces and parties in West Europe as well as with the support of various world public opinion circles, our people's will power concerning the regaining of our right to the freedom and independence of our homeland will be imposed.

The PLO will continue its moves in the Arab and international arenas to rally and provide all means of support and assistance to our people's comprehensive revolution against the occupiers until a final victory is achieved with God's help. Ye who believe! If ye will aid (the cause of) [parentheses from Koran] God, He will aid you and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verses].

Hence, the PLO has welcomed and supported Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid's call for holding an urgent Arab summit to back and support the valiant Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. Our principled stand only expresses our sincere and genuine desire for peace—peace which is based on justice, international legality, and UN resolutions. This is the road to peace as approved by the Arab summits and the UN General Assembly. We are committed to this peace and call on everyone who seeks a genuine peace to join us in this commitment.

Shultz Must 'Knock On' PLO Doors for Peace

JN042201 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1804 GMT 4 mar 88

[Station commentary: "The Gap That Must Be Bridged: The People of the Uprising Will Certainly Bridge It"]

[Text] Brothers, O masses of our heroic Palestinian people, O sons of our glorious Arab nation: U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz is returning to the region carrying claims, illusions, maneuvers, and known stands prepared in advance, nothing more. Shultz is returning to reiterate that he will not negotiate with the PLO. However, he says and claims that his negotiations were very positive in the first stage and that they have achieved progress, expecting they will result in something.

Shultz knows that those who know he is raving about groundless claims are the Palestinians who alone possess the key to a solution and who alone can achieve progress in peace negotiations if a knock is heard on the doors of the PLO, their sole, legitimate representative. With them alone, negotiations would be positive. With others, Shultz does not negotiate; rather, he complains and looks for ways to move away from the impasse.

Shultz knows well that the Palestinians know and deeply realize that the intensive U.S. activity is not aimed at achieving a just peace, as the U.S. Administration claims, but completely the opposite. Shultz is first and foremost interested in strangling the vehement national uprising of our heroic people and containing its scope, dimensions, meaning, and direct and indirect effects on the Israeli ally, or other U.S. Administration allies, friends, and satellites in the region. The Palestinians firmly announce that as long as Shultz is away from the PLO and reiterates that he will not knock on its doors, a solution, any solution, will never be achieved.

Shultz' talk about progress in propagandistic negotiations, which may result in something as he expects, is only talk aimed at terrorizing the PLO and pressuring it to submit and accept the U.S. plan which is only aimed at saving the Israeli ally, first by extinguishing the fire of the uprising and then by limiting Israel's losses and achieving U.S. gains on this basis. In other words, this is aimed at setting a very low ceiling for the change which has occurred in the balance of power to hold the reins of initiative once again; that is, to wrench it from the national Palestinian uprising and infiltrate through the gap in negotiations with unessential parties to exploit the Palestinian victory in Washington at the expense of this victory's objectives and abort these objectives.

The U.S. Administration used a wager on exploiting the defeats of some Arabs and the partial victories of others in Washington to achieve the results it desires. The U.S. Administration believes this wagering can be repeated even to confront the certain victory in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. On what does the U.S. Administration rely in this regard? Undoubtedly, it relies on what we can call the Arab gap which, most regrettably, is still witnessed in the wall of the uprising. Indeed this gap is still there. It is located exactly in the difference between the level of the uprising masses' heroic, great performance in confronting the killer occupiers, and the general outcome of the Arab situation which is still unable to move. We do not want to say anything about the disability, collusion, or the like. The gap lies exactly in this area which has thus far allowed George Shultz to return to the region and claim he achieved some progress in his negotiations which may result in something.

In other words, the Arab capitals that are receiving Shultz without raising the uprising's slogans and objectives to his face and without making him hear the uprising's decisive language allow him to continue his role as a fireman trying to extinguish the flames of the uprising. Within this context, they allowed him to say false words about negotiations which have achieved progress and which may result in something; that is, they have allowed him to continue his pressure on the PLO to make it scrape out its existence by itself. If these capitals had unified their stand in complete clarity with the PLO and adopted in full the uprising's stand on the issue of meeting with Shultz and the conditions for this meeting, Shultz would not have returned to make us hear his false words and terrorist claims which will never harm our great national stand.

Nevertheless, it is never too late. We believe the continuation of the heroic performance of our people's uprising will certainly bridge that Arab gap. There is no other option in the Arab arena except to be in harmony with the uprising's beat and language. It is not too late for the Arab brothers to believe that only the language of the uprising will force

Shultz to give up his rotten goods, and that being in line with the uprising and its language, conditions, and objectives will inevitably lead to deterring the American Shultz and closing the doors to his exploitation of them.

We deeply affirm that our valiant masses with their great sacrifices and legendary heroic deeds will bridge this gap, forcing Shultz to return in humiliation to knock on the doors of the PLO and enter its wide house if he really wants to achieve a just peace in the region.

PLO Requests Meeting To Discuss Saudi Aid

JN051746 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1600 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] The PLO has requested an urgent meeting of the Jordanian-Palestinian joint committee in the next 48 hours to immediately distribute the sum of $20 million which was donated to the committee's fund by the Saudi Government to support the Palestinian people's steadfatness and back the national institutions and bodies in the occupied territories.

This sum will support the Palestinian people under these tough circumstances and under the iron-fist policy, which daily subjects our people to the ugliest campaigns of repression and starvation at the hands of the Zionist occupation forces.

South Asian Regional Affairs

Talks on Afghanistan Issue Continue in Geneva

Wakil Holds News Conference

LD041534 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1430 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] 'Abdul Wakil, minister of foreign affairs and head of the Republic of Afghanistan's delegation in the current Geneva talks with Pakistan, yesterday afternoon at a news conference answered questions from correspondents of the international mass media on the progress of the Geneva talks process.

The foreign minister said: According to a proposal by the Pakistani side, on the basis of previous agreements between the governments of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union and in consideration of the spirit of the statement dated 20 Dalw 1366, corresponding to 8 February 1988, by Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, and of the statement by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of CPSU Central Committee, agreement has been reached today on a timetable for the withdrawal of forces within 9 months.

In addition to this, in line with the spirit of the statements by the leaders of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, the sides agreed that 50 percent of the forces will be withdrawn in the first 3 months and the other 50 percent within the remaining 6 months. By reaching agreement on this point, the document on reciprocal relations was finalized. The Afghan foreign minister added: By such constructive flexibility on the part of Afghanistan, the issue of the phased withdrawal has been completely resolved. Now it is time for the parties to agree on the remaining issues and to sign the document for a political solution.

The foreign minister said: The solution to the situation around Afghanistan has been useful in helping to resolve the country's internal issues through the implementation of the national reconciliation policy under a coalition government. Afghans are able to restore peace and calmness to their country.

At this news conference the foreign minister shed light on the national reconciliation policy, the gains brought about by its implementation, and its prospects. He answered journalists' questions in detail.

UN Mediator Reviews Progress

BK041619 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] The United Nations envoy on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, has said that there exists a consensus to establish a broader based government in Afghanistan in order to implement the Geneva agreements in a more feasible and effective way. Addressing a news conference in Geneva this afternoon, he said all parties concerned are unanimous on this point. He said he is in constant touch with the two proposed guarantors of peace—the United States and the Soviet Union—and all parties involved in the Afghanistan problem, including Iran, for the establishment of a broader government in Afghanistan. Cordovez said at this stage he cannot disclose the details of the talks he has held in this connection.

Answering a question, the United Nations envoy said that the draft documents of all four agreements for peace have reached the final stage of their completion and are almost ready. When asked when and how the two countries guaranteeing peace and the implementation of the four instruments will sign this agreement, he said both the United States and the Soviet Union have accepted the text of the agreement, but a procedure for this is being finalized. Further talks will resume on Monday, Cordovez added.

In a dispatch from Geneva, the Radio Pakistan's special correspondent, Safdar Ahad, says that the Pakistani delegation led by Zain Noorani, the minister of state for foreign affairs, earlier held talks with Cordovez. The Kabul regime's delegation led by its Foreign Minister 'Abdul Wakil also held a separate meeting with the United Nations envoy.

The Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs has now left Geneva for Islamabad. He will again return to Geneva on Monday to lead the Pakistani delegation at the talks, which will resume the same day.

Noorani Comments on Talks

BK051541 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani, who returned to Islamabad from Geneva this morning, has said that Pakistan is trying to convince the other party through the United Nations envoy, Diego Cordovez, of the significance of the establishment of a transitional government in Afghanistan. Talking to newsmen, he said the formation of such a government is essential for creating conditions under which the Afghan refugees can return to their homes with honor and safety.

The minister of state for foreign affairs said that the other party has agreed to the 9-month timetable for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops and has also accepted Pakistan's condition that at least 50 percent of the Soviet troops will definitely leave the country within the first 3 months. The Soviet troops will start their pull-out on 15 May, Zain Noorani added.

Noorani Stops Over in Moscow

BK061535 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani has left for Geneva to lead the Pakistani delegation at the UN-sponsored Geneva proximity talks on Afghanistan, which resume tomorrow [7 March]. Taking advantage of the weekend recess in the Geneva talks, Noorani flew in to Islamabad and attended the conference of the political leaders, which was called by the prime minister to discuss the various aspects of the Afghanistan issue.

According to reports, the minister of state for foreign affairs made a brief stopover in Moscow on his way to Geneva. He was received at the airport by the Soviet chief of protocol and the Pakistani ambassador, Shahid Amin.

Chad

Ambassador Says Libyan 'Mercenaries' in Country

NC031158 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT
3 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 3 Mar (MENA)—Joseph Gibang, Chad's ambassador in Cairo, has asserted that mercenaries hired by Libyan Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi are operating on Chadian territory and wearing Chadian military uniforms in a major effort to mislead world public opinion. The Chadian ambassador was responding to press reports that armed gangs in Chadian military uniforms are carrying out operations in the Darfur area in Western Sudan. He denied accusations Chad had transferred its conflict with Libya onto Sudanese territory.

Egypt

Shultz Arrives To Meet With Mubarak 4 Mar

NC042005 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1958 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz arrived in Cairo from Damascus this evening for a visit of several hours, during which he will be received by President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Proposals Called 'Encouraging'

NC042244 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2205 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak spoke to reporters following his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz tonight. He stated that he had discussed the U.S. proposals with Shultz and that the proposals will be presented to the other parties.

In a statement delivered following the 75-minute meeting, President Mubarak welcomed Shultz and noted that he is touring the Middle East in order to promote peace.

President Mubarak referred to the talks about the Middle East crisis which he held with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and George Shultz in Washington last January.

President Husni Mubarak explained that the proposals submitted by Shultz to the concerned parties are encouraging and require careful study. He said: We are careful to maintain the impetus of the peace process in the Middle East for the good of the region and its peoples, including the Israeli people.

President Mubarak added: "We will do our utmost to ensure the success of the peace process. We will also study all the points included in these positive proposals with King Husayn of Jordan and the other concerned parties." [passage omitted]

In his answers to the reporters' questions, President Mubarak emphasized that progress has been achieved in the issue and he pointed out that the currently proposed ideas are encouraging. He further noted that the issue is still under discussion.

President Mubarak said: "U.S. proposals have been presented to all the parties and we will discuss them with these parties in order to extract the salient points from them."

Departs After Visit

NC042221 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2216 GMT
4 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left Cairo tonight for Israel following a brief 2-hour visit. He was seen off at the airport by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Frank Wizner, U.S. ambassador in Cairo.

'Main Principles' Reported

NC051711 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT
5 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA)—A responsible diplomatic source in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has stated that a meeting between Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Wat Cluverius, deputy assistant to the U.S. secretary of state, was held today to continue exchanging views on the ideas under discussion to achieve peace in the Middle East.

The source said that Dr 'Abd al-Majid's meeting with Cluverius, who participated in the session of talks held between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz last night, was meant to complete the Shultz talks in Cairo.

Cluverius, whose meeting with 'Abd al-Majid lasted approximately 2 hours, is expected to leave for Saudi Arabia and then Jordan to learn the Arab parties' views on the U.S. peace proposals.

The diplomatic source said that the U.S. peace plan currently being discussed in Egypt, Jordan, Israel, and Syria depends on the following main principles:

1. The exchange of territory for peace and Israel's approval of this.

2. Peace should be comprehensive and final and should take into consideration the views of the states which are parties to the conflict in the region.

3. The comprehensive peace plan should aim at achieving the legitimate aspirations and rights of the Palestinian people in the Arab occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

4. The procedures proposed in the comprehensive peace plan should be detached from the procedures envisaged in the Camp David agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, because time and events have overtaken the Camp David procedures.

It has been learned that the United States is expected to receive the concerned parties' answers to the U.S. peace plan in the coming few days.

Fatah Official, 'Abd al-Majid Discuss Issues

NC041843 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, PLO charge d'affaires and Fatah representative in Cairo, stated today that during his meeting last evening with Dr 'Izmat al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, they discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and Egyptian efforts to resolve it.

Al-Qidrah said they also discussed the outcome of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' visit to the region, as well as various Arab and world issues.

In other developments, Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and chairman of the PNC Foreign Relations Department, will arrive in Cairo today for a visit of several days to take part in the London Arab Studies Institute seminar, due to begin at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo on Sunday. The seminar will last for 3 days.

Shultz Proposals Labeled 'Old'

NC041923 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1827 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 4 Mar (MENA)—Zuhdi al-Qidrah, PLO charge d'affairs and Fatah representative in Cairo, has stated that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' plan to resolve the Palestinian issue, announced in Tel Aviv today, contains nothing new to the Palestinian people and is merely a repetition of old U.S. ideas. He made a statement today which said that Shultz' plan is a new formula for old U.S. ideas which center on achieving only autonomy for the Palestinians. He added that the PLO and the Palestinian people had previously rejected this plan.

Mubarak Says Libyan Planes 'Still in Egypt'

NC051233 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has emphasized that the Libyan aircraft are still in Egypt, noting that they will be returned to Libya after they are inspected by technicians.

These remarks came in response to journalists' questions following the conclusion of the opening session of the Islamic Research Academy's conference. The president said: We are a civilized country and we deal with our neighbors and brothers in a civilized manner. We do not have any plans in mind, nor do we seek enmities or bloodshed. We do not want to harm anyone. The Libyan aircraft landed on the territory of the Arab Republic of Egypt. After ascertaining that they harbored no hostile intentions, their crews were treated well, because this is our nature in Egypt, the nature of Islam. When His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and others from the Arab world contacted us, I assured them that I plan to return the aircraft.

I asked them to send technicians to inspect these planes before they take off, a natural thing in such circumstances. When aircraft land in this way they must be inspected by technicians. However, we will return them to Libya following the inspection. We have no enmities or grudges against the people of Libya. We treat them as Egyptian citizens, with the same good manners that we normally use in our dealings with the people in the rest of the world.

Asked about a JANA report that the planes have already returned to Libya, President Mubarak said: We still have the planes. This is fact, but JANA is free to report what it likes.

President Mubarak was asked about the peace process in the coming phase, particularly since Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has described his talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz as fruitful, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has said that Shultz had interesting ideas. The president said: We have been notified of these ideas, which were presented to the parties concerned. There is encouragement and there are constructive ideas. But, we need to consult with the parties concerned. We should not close a door. We have to develop any ideas that could help the cause, and not waste time in rejecting them.

The president was asked about the refusal of the United States to confer with a Palestinian delegation and whether the Israeli administration [as received] would agree to hold discussions with a Palestinian delegation approved by the PLO. The president replied: We are trying not to complicate matters. There is an agreement regarding a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. As for the fact that they [not further specified] refused the meeting, our brothers in the West Bank refused [to meet Shultz] in deference to a PLO request. We have welcomed a meeting here in Egypt; this was not a propaganda ploy. We are trying to help the Palestinian cause and we are willing to extend this help without being overly visible. Other sites for that meeting have been proposed. We welcome a meeting between the Palestinians and Shultz—let everybody understand that—in any location, whether in an Arab or a foreign country.

Saudis To Inspect Planes

NC051424 Cairo MENA in English 1416 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Cairo, March 5 (MENA)—A group of Saudi technicians are due here tomorrow to inspect the Libyan

MiG-23 aircraft that have landed in an Egyptian airport recently. The inspection of the Libyan aircraft will take place prior to their return to Libya.

President Husni Mubarak has said in press statements today that King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and other Arab leaders have contacted him and he assured them that the Libyan planes will be returned to Libya. He also asked them to send technicians to inspect the planes before taking off.

Libyan Technicians To Egypt

LD060934 Kuwait KUNA in English 0813 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Riyadh, March 6 (KUNA)—Libyan technicians leave here Sunday for Egypt to inspect the four Soviet-made MiG 23 jetfighters which landed there last Tuesday before taking off for Libya, Saudi sources said.

The Libyan experts arrived here yesterday in response to Saudi mediation with Egypt on Libyan initiative to release the four planes which Tripoli said landed in Egypt because of bad weather and consequent shortage of fuel.

The Saudi source said King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was approached by the Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to mediate with President Husni Mubarak of Egypt to let the four planes fly back home.

The Saudi monarch was quick to oblige and immediately telephoned Mubarak who asked for technicians to inspect the four planes as a routine procedure in such cases before releasing them, the sources added.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said yesterday that the four planes were on their way back to Libya but the Egyptian leader today said the planes were still in Egypt. Nothing was said by all parties about the pilots or who will fly the planes to Libya.

Libyans, Saudis Arrive

NC061115 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] A responsible source has stated that in response to the endeavors by His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the monarch of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, regarding the issue of the four Libyan aircraft, a Libyan aircraft carrying a group of Libyan and Saudi technicians has arrived in Cairo. The technicians will inspect the four aircraft before they are flown back to Libya.

Mubarak on Syrian Ties, Libyan Plane Issue

NC062048 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that the political activity currently being witnessed in the area is the result of efforts begun by Egypt to promote a peaceful settlement and convene an international conference for peace. President Mubarak made this statement during a meeting he held today with NDP and opposition party members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council in the Al-Jizah Governorate.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that during the meeting, the president discussed the method of collective work and cooperation between the executive and popular authorities to serve the goals of development in the governorates.

During a meeting today with Egyptian scientists of the National Center for Research and the Science Research Academy, President Mubarak said that Egypt is moving on the path of gradual economic reform, which takes some time, affirming that the people cannot withstand concrete reforms.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif stated that during this meeting, the President shed light on all foreign and domestic issues, and said that Egypt is passing through a difficult period as a result of the accumulation of problems. The president also dealt with Egypt's peace strategy. He said: We must protect and safeguard Egypt, and this can only be done through strong Armed Forces capable of defending and safeguarding Egypt's decisions.

Regarding the organization called Egypt's Revolution, the president expressed his sorrow that the son of departed leader Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir is one of the defendants from this organization. President Mubarak said that he cannot break the law and will not allow himself to intervene, because all Egyptians are equal before the law. He explained that the whole case is in the hands of the judiciary, that the judiciary in Egypt is just, and that the Egyptians are secure under a just judiciary.

The president then dealt with the housing issue, explaining that we will continue to suffer from the housing problem as long as we continue to multiply by about 1 million people annually. President Mubarak affirmed that there are conventional and nonconventional solutions. He called for the allocation of land to societies, groups, and unions on which cooperative housing projects can be implemented.

Regarding Egypt's foreign policy, Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak discussed Arab and African issues, as well as all regional issues. The president also explained the ideas which Egypt put forward through his initiative to resolve the Palestinian issue and exploit the Palestinian people's uprising. The president called on the concerned parties to develop a dialogue to achieve a comprehensive solution, so the Palestinian issue will not remain one of missed opportunities. He explained that we must not accept what is against our will, but we must improve on what is being offered to achieve our interests and an exemplary solution to our problems.

The president also reviewed Egyptian-Arab relations, which have never been severed, and the resumption of the relations with all the fraternal Arab states, except Syria, Libya, and Algeria. The president pointed out that Egypt has its dignity. Egypt does not object to the restoration of relations with any state, but it does not accept any preconditions. The president said that relations have been restored between Egypt and its Arab brothers who appreciate Egypt's role, leadership, and Arabism.

The president also explained the points of disagreement between Egypt and Syria, and affirmed that the Egyptian people know their interests best, and that they are the decision-makers. Egypt rejects the idea of slogans and the attempts to involve others in what is illogical.

Regarding the Libyan aircraft issue, President Mubarak explained that the four Libyan planes, which lost their way, were permitted to land in Egypt and their pilots were treated nicely as sons of a fraternal people. The president added that he accepted the mediation of his brother the king of the Saudi Arabia to return the Libyan planes. He also promised his majesty to return five Libyan crew members of the three aircraft that landed in Egypt last year, explaining that those five have not asked for political asylum in Egypt.

Interview With Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir Cited

JN061109 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0955 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Al-Shariqah, 6 Mar (WAKH)—Dr Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, son of the late President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir and a defendant in the so-called Egypt's Revolution case, has said that he will return to Cairo as soon as the trial of this case begins, and that his decision to return is irrevocable. He added: Had it been up to me, I would have returned to Cario a long time ago.

Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir denied the accusations leveled against him in the indictment issued by the Egyptian public prosecutor. He said that the incidents of which the indictment accuses him will be left for the Egyptian judicial system to judge. He said he has great confidence in the patriotism, fairness, and honesty of the Egyptian judiciary.

In an interview with the Al-Shariqah-based AL-KHALIJ paper today, he said that the case of Egypt's Revolution is a political and national case. He said: I could not find in the indictment against me any real accusations that are harmful to me or that may tarnish my reputation or that of the other defendants, because these accusations are an honor to any Egyptian or Arab citizen.

He affirmed that this hostility has been and continues to be against the Zionist presence and U.S. hegemony and not against the regime, the law, or the authorities in Egypt.

On whether he has received an official request to return to Egypt following the publication of the indictment in the case, Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir said he never received such an official request to return. He added: However, I believe it is my duty as a citizen to return to say what I have to say and let justice take its course.

Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir denied that the SFRY Government has asked him to leave the SFRY where he resides, or that it had submitted to U.S. pressure in this respect. He expressed appreciation for the stand by SFRY officials who had told him that he is always welcome to reside on their territory.

He said: I will not and will never ask for political asylum in any country in the world because my natural place is in Egypt, my homeland. He said that many Arab leaders and officials have contacted him welcoming him in their countries but that he had thanked them and told them that his stay outside Egypt will not be for long and that he will return to Egypt.

Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir said that he visited Algeria for 3 days in response to an invitation by the Algerian leaders.

On reports that the Mosad has carried out attempts against his life, Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir said such attempts are not new. The Mosad tried to assassinate me while I was in Lebanon in 1971 at the invitation of the late Lebanese leader Kamal Junblatt. He said that he believes such attempts on his life will continue in the future.

He described the Palestinian people's uprising against the Zionist occupation as the brilliant and prominent landmark in the Arab history, stressing that it has exposed Israel's ugly face to the world at large, has revealed the racist and aggressive nature of Israel, and has demonstrated that the Arab people are capable of confronting their enemies.

Mubarak Calls Jordanian, Tunisian Leaders

NC041907 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] During a telephone call this evening, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan exchanged views on regional issues. President Mubarak also had a telephone conversation with Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali today on ways of bolstering bilateral relations.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Tripoli Prisoners 3 Mar

LD031946 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1456 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to a group of prisoners at Tripoli Prison—live]

[Text] Morning has broken and neither the prison nor the jailer remain. Morning has broken and neither the prison nor the jailer remain. Morning has broken and neither the prison nor the jailer remain. The morning resembles a pair of wings emerging from beyond the horizon. Sorrow, which sent tears to flow from those eyes, is no more. Handcuffs are no more. There will be no more scattering in every valley. My country, it is a joy that comes forth from each sad heart. [crowd chants]

Brother citizens: Yesterday, 2 March, was one of the fruits of the Great 1 September Revolution. This revolution took place in order to free the Libyan masses, the Arab masses, and the people, the masses of the Arab nation, and the masses everywhere. On a day like yesterday the authority of the people and the (?state) of the masses emerged. This is the state of the people—men and women—the state of the people where the masses govern themselves by themselves, without a government, without a ruler, without a sultan, without police, and without repressive organs. Brothers, it is fitting and in the tradition of 2 March—the day of freedom—the great 1 September—it is fitting and in the tradition of 2 March that the remaining fetters should be destroyed, that the (?walls) are destroyed and the prisons demolished.

Brothers, this is an immortal hour and a historic pause, exhibiting complete courage, confidence, and conviction—conviction in the great revolution, its immortal principles, its loyal and generous people, and its beloved masses. [crowd chants]

This revolution came forth, this revolution emerged as a cry of freedom and rebellion against the slavery which ensnared all of Libya and our beloved people. It emerged in order to break the fetters, not only of the Libyan people, but also of the Arab nation so that it can surge forward to build and to liberate.

Brothers, the 1 September Revolution represents a cry of freedom. Its dawn was truly the dawn of freedom; it was the day of freedom. Therefore, under no circumstances can the 1 September revolution turn into a jailer, an oppressor of the masses, or a jailer of the free. [crowd chants]

Brothers, we ignited the great 1 September Revolution for the sake of freedom. This being the case, how can a section of the sons of this loyal people, a part of this loyal people, remain in jail cells and suffer in fetters? Why has this happened, brothers? Why has this occurred? This could have happened before the great 1 September revolution. This could have taken place when all Libya was a large prison. It would have been more appropriate for the prison to be filled—for people to be thrown into jail cells and be shackled in heavy chains—before 1 September. On 1 September the people rebelled against the hireling royalist regime, the U.S. and British bases, and the Italian colonialist occupiers from whose yoke our country was not liberated until 1970, just a short while ago. [Words indistinct] and under U.S. and British domination at sea, in the air, and on land.

On that day and at that time, it would have been possible to fill the prisons with revolutionaries and rebels, with free and the upright men. But brothers, why should this prison have remained here afterward? There must have been some (?error). Yes, there was (?a great error), and its will be made known today. I do not ask of these brothers who have been freed—in a few minutes they will be freed—[crowd shouts approval] brothers, I do not ask them to review their conscience, because they have an awakened conscience.

I do not ask them to have a (?sense) of patriotism because they may already be patriots. I ask them to, I only ask them, I only ask them to be aware of what is going on in their land outside this prison. I only want them to learn this. I do not want anything else from them: Just learn about what is happening on Libyan soil from [word indistinct] until new. Brothers, brothers, these brothers who are behind this terrible wall might have been unjustly blamed. At the same time, however, perhaps they are the ones who wronged the 1 September Revolution and thought ill of it. Perhaps they imagined that it was not the revolution of freedom, but thought it was a military dictatorship of a bourgeois movement, or a right-wing movement, or an attempt at one-man rule. However, at that time these brothers did not know the story of the revolution. They did not know the story of the revolution when it started underground in 1959. I started it when I was a student at preparatory school. I was not an officer then; I was not a police officer; I was not a ruler. I was barefoot; I was poor; I was starving; I was hunted down by the police. [crowd chants and shouts approval]

Yes, brothers, in my own view, in my own view the charge against you is lack of knowledge, not treason, treachery, or plotting. Brothers, the charge against you is a lack of knowledge. You did not know what the 1 September Revolution was. Consequently, you wronged the 1 September revolution, and in so doing wronged yourselves. You were unfair both to your families and to us, because we were suffering in the same way as your families were suffering because you were suffering inside this prison. It is not permissible for us to throw a part of our people in jail. [crowd shouts: Long live Mu'ammar!]

Brothers, there is no doubt that today is not the same as yesterday for these brothers who are behind this wall but will, in a few minutes, be outside it. This terrible wall will be demolished. Brothers, the charge against these brothers has been worn out through time because 1970 is not 1980; 1969 is not the same as 1988 or 1989. You should know that they have been unjust to the revolution and they have been unjust to themselves; they were wrong in their assessment. There is no doubt that today they are sorry for what they have done because they were the ones who imprisoned themselves, they were the ones who tortured themselves, in addition to you, and our honest, free, and revolutionary consciences which oppose imprisonment and chains. Brothers, they did not know what the 1 September Revolution was.

First, all of you, including these brothers inside prison—some of them free officers—accompanied me on the eve of 1 September. You know me, and you know when you joined the revolution, as well as when the civilians, others, and even those who were (?members of parties) joined. I personally passed through all these stages, yet can anyone engage in one-upmanship with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi? I am speaking about myself regarding the revolution which I started when I was 15. The police pursued me in Fezzan and the royalist government (?pursued) me. I was tortured in my youth and all my life for the sake of the revolution. Who can engage in one-upmanship with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi when it it comes to the revolution, not only at the Libyan level, but also at the level of the entire world?

Who, brothers, who would dare to engage in oneupmanship with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi when it comes to the question of the revolution? I am talking about the issue of the revolution; not only in Libya but also at the level of the world. Today I am leading the world revolution for the sake of liberating the nations and not just for liberating a group of Libyans. Who can say, brothers, that the 1 September Revolution, who among you brothers can say: I am its author or I thought about it before Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi?

Who thought about the 1 September Revolution since 1959? Where were you brothers? Even those of you who were members of parties or who were in the military? Are there any among you who knew that the revolution began in 1959 while I was a student at preparatory school? That I started it brick by brick, sacrificing many nights and years for its sake, putting my life in jeopardy for the sake of this revolution? Brothers, I lived 10 years underground in the caravan of death. Since that time, you yourselves have seen the 18 years of struggle, struggle with the greatest anti-freedom power in existence in the world. But, brothers, who can allow his conscience to think of stealing the revolution which was brought about by bitter nights and days, and years when all of you—all of you inside and outside—knew nothing about my movement and knew nothing about my revolution. You did not know that there was a man who did not sleep a wink and was suffering for the sake of liberating the Libyan people and the Arab nation. All of you knew nothing about this. Only I and my colleagues knew about this. [crowd applauds and shouts]

Brothers, 10 years underground, 10 years underground in serious work, not party action. Even under the defunct regime, when they arrested party members they gave them only a few months or a few years, and then they released them. But if they had caught me, I would have been executed because I established a clandestine armed revolutionary movement while I was a student—during preparatory and secondary school and at the military college—and while I was a lieutenant in the Army. All during this dangerous period I was the one who never slept for its sake; I was the one who was responsible for it. If they had discovered the revolution from 1959 to 1969, I would have been its first victim. It was I who destroyed the monarchy. I was the one who destroyed the U.S. bases, the British bases, and Italian colonialism. After 1970, how could you begin to think you could steal this revolution? This is a gross crime. This is a mistake, a mistake. But how can it be forgiven? I am not charging the perpetrators today; They are charging themselves. It was I who destroyed the monarchy and the U.S. bases. I was able to start a movement against the U.S. bases, but my aim was the revolution and this is why I froze any side action until the great earthquake had taken place on both Libyan and Arab soil. I worked to destroy five U.S. bases; from the 1st day of the revolution I besieged them and expelled them. I, my colleagues, and their officers besieged the Wheelus base. Ever since that day of the revolution we said that was the end, that there would be no more flying in Libyan skies. They were compelled to leave. They even had to ask us how to take off from the base for Europe.

We also encircled Britain's bases. As for Italian colonialism, 19,000 Italians were occupying all the agricultural land and all the landed property. All the commerce and amenities that existed in what used to be called Tripolitania were completely under Italian occupation. We kicked 19,000 out in 1970.

First, we destroyed the throne which used to be worshipped. No one believed that anyone would dare to approach the mighty Sennoussi throne which was protected by the mighty imperialist bases. Who could have challenged it? It would have been called foolish. Even high-ranking Army officers, in whom I trusted and talked to about it, said I was mad. They said I was mad; that I was a little child, a foolish junior officer. Is it possible that you can shake the throne which is protected by all the West's forces? Libya is a lake of oil. The West will never leave it to you or to anyone else; it will fight. However, this was a duty, and I was ready to die for its sake: To destroy the monarchy, to destroy and kick out U.S. and British colonialism and the Italian settlements. Afterward—you who come along after 1970, who start to conspire and say: Let us go to the radio building, broadcast a proclamation, and steal the revolution. This is shameful. How can this be? What sort of conscience or ethics do you have?

This is a thing of the past and nobody can change it. It has been written that I and my free colleagues personally destroyed the monarchy, U.S. colonialism on Libyan territory, British colonialism, and Italian colonial settlement, and the revolution is still continuing. We are shaking U.S. bases everywhere. We have now exported revolution to Panama, to America's own ground. Since it has used aggression against us we will use aggression against it.

The United States has announced—perhaps the brothers in prison do not know this—a message from U.S. President Reagan to the Congress, in which he said that

Libya threatens U.S. interests in the world and that the U.S. national interests and national security are threatened by Libya. Thus, the emergency law, which gives the President the power to deal with this serious problem, is applied. That law is still in force.

Libya was a mere individual selling a barrel of oil; it was a forgotten soul. O brothers, you have all been to Europe. If you told them Libya, what did they tell you: Lebanon, Liberia, Lima? They did not know the name of Libya. Now the world is like the call for prayers, it starts and ends its day with Libya, because Libya fights for freedom and it says that the world is based on a mistake, as everybody keeps within one's own borders.

O brothers, O brothers, for these reasons there has been no mercy. Some of those who are now being freed were sentenced to death—it is possible that the death penalty might have been carried out before now—some were sentenced to life imprisonment, and some others were sentenced to long-term prison sentences. Why? Why did we sentence them to all these sentences? Why? Because they perpetrated something wrong and unacceptable, something unacceptable.

They tried to steal an historic achievement. These people should have said: No, this is an historic achievement which is the property of this person and this courageous group, namely the Free Unionist Officers, and therefore we should not conspire against it. If you had something to say you could have always mentioned it. You could have said this was wrong, bid us farewell or said: I want to go abroad. But you should not have tried to preempt the revolution.

Sometimes you speak on the radio, talking as if you were the one who carried out this revolution. What really could you say about the revolution if you were asked? I might go out from the prison or somewhere else and get them to ask you: When did this revolution begin? Who carried out such-and-such an act? Did I not contact you, who used to be member of parties? Did I not contact you, who used to be member of such a group? It would be clear to the people, if we suppose that the coup was successful, who carried out the coup and who was a thief, a liar; a thief, and the one who encroached upon the revolution.

How could you claim the revolution for yourself? When I sat down to write the history of the revolution, after it had taken place, all of them were astonished. Everyone began saying: I did not know that this revolution started in 1957. Some them took part with us briefly and thought that the revolution was planned by some officers who merely carried out a military coup. They began to say: Look, we have carried out the revolution; we planned and prepared for it for 2 months. And that was why I sat down to write the history of the revolution and to put everyone in his place.

So they began saying: Oh, this revolution was prepared since 1957; well we did not know this. So we, who joined in 1960, 1965, 1967, 1968 and 1969 were merely joining the caraven of death which started its march in 1957. And it was only then that they realized.

One of the officers, at the time his detention—he was subsequently sentenced to death—said to them: Listen; [words indistinct]. My conscience might allow me to steal this revolution and I may even admit that I have conspired [words indistinct] against it, but I can never say that it was not this person who carried it out, even before we knew about it; he could have even been executed before I even knew about it, or he could have been awaiting his execution before we even got involved. I will always say so. He was in his cell awaiting execution when he said to them: All these are merely attempts to steal the revolution of this man; the revolution began in 1957 and we did not know about it; no one at all knew.

But, dear brothers, today, brothers, today is the day of freedom, the day on which chains should be destroyed and prisons and walls should be demolished so that the masses, the masses of the whole Arab nation, can set out to confront the staunch enemy, to confront the main enemy: imperialism and Zionism, exploitation and backwardness.

Brothers, people do not triumph with prisoners. No matter how many prisons they build and no matter how high are the walls, they cannot reach the moon. The chains that shackle the forces of the masses cannot make people progress. People do not progress through prisons, they do not progress through death sentences, nor through oppression, chains, arbitrariness, exploitation, or injustice. People progress through freedom, through liberation, the breaking of chains and the demolishing of (?walls). [applause]

The revolution of 1 September is a liberator, a liberator of the Arab nation. It was a disgrace for you, brothers, to be inside this prison, because we introduced ourselves as savers and liberators of the enslaved masses, the chained masses. We are the liberators of the Arab nation, we presented ourselves as the liberators of the Arab nation and of the masses everywhere. We are the focal point for the masses. If a setback happens to the revolution in Libya, free men in Latin America, Asia, and South Africa will cry. They all pin hopes on the revolution, on the 1 September Revolution. Because if this revolution suffers a setback, the international revolution and the people struggling for freedom and against our common enemy—imperialism, Zionism, racism, reaction, and exploitation—will all suffer a setback. They will suffer a setback, because their base, their leadership was hit. The whole world cried and the whole world revolted when the U.S. aircraft attacked (?us).

Brothers, who conspires after 14 April 1986? Who still says: No, I am a Libyan resisting the United States? Against who did the United States employ 170 aircraft?

The NATO alliance. You, brothers, who were in prison, perhaps you do not know this story: The United States and the NATO alliance attacked me with 170 aircraft—30 Boeing aircraft for refueling only—flew 4,000 km to deal a blow to Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Why? Is there one who still goes one better on the story of the revolution? Not here in the Arab world, or in the whole world. I was the first to oppose the writing of books this way, books in the world.

Al-Qadhdhafi is a man of opposition on a worldwide level. I lead an international revolution, and consequently, the United States—because it is the enemy of this international revolution and because the international revolution is aimed against the United States—consequently the United States attacked Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. It left behind kings, princes, sultans, and gilded palaces and came to attack a tent made of camel hair, as was said by [word indistinct]. It strafed this tent, the entire NATO alliance strafed my tent. Why? Why did they not strafe the palaces? They left behind them 70 million Arabs, 70 million Arabs were left behind by the planes, and the aircraft came to the tent in Bab al-Aziziyah and destroyed it. This is sufficient proof for me.

But you brothers offended me, you offended me because you tried to usurp the revolution and falsify my history and the history of the revolution, until you were arrested and sentenced to death, life imprisonment, or detention. You distorted my image and the image of the revolution, the revolution of liberation. You disfigured its picture before the world. Shame on you. This is your revolution, the revolution of your country, you should be proud of it. You go and disfigure its image before the world, say that it imprisons and [word indistinct] because you offended it. You were not patient enough to see what this revolution is. The Marxist who was imprisoned, now he is left behind. We have left Marxism behind. Zhivkov—some of you brothers are Marxists—of Bulgaria said: I met my party and we discussed the Libyan phenomenon, the new applications in Libya which seems to [word indistinct] Marxism. They told me that this was a colonel, therefore there is no left-wing tendency. You cannot compare it to what is taking place in Libya. This is a colonel, there is no left-wing tendency. We are still leftists. We are talking about the Marxist experience within the left-wing framework. He told me that within your Central Committee they call me a colonel who does not relate to the left-wing tendency. The Marxists have become rightists. What is happening in Libya is that our motto reads: The house belongs to the person who lives in it, whereas in other countries they say that the house belongs to the municipality and it is let to the tenant forever.

The tenant is slave forever inside this house. We say that the house belongs to the person who lives in it. Either you accept the principle that the house belongs to the person who lives in it, or you accept the principle that states that the house belongs to the municipality. The norm should either be that all people should say that the house belongs to the tenant, the land is for all, and everyone should take advantage of it through his own labor, he should benefit from it without exploiting the others; or it should say that the land is cooperative property or government property.

We should say that the workers are partners in production, partners, not wage-earners. Somebody who thinks that he is a progressive Marxist, or others, say that the workers are government wage-earners. No, what I say is that the workers are partners, not wage-earners; there are no such government workers or anything else. There should be equality in authority and revolution, and the weapons are in the people's hands. Through this ideology you could have achieved some lost luxury on Libyan soil, and set an example, not through going to jail, but outside prison. Your ideas should be directed toward consolidating this revolution, which is unique.

Everything in Libya is cheap, despite the world crisis, compared to the rest of the world, because there is no exploitation. Communism—I am not against Communism. On the contrary, I have surpassed Communism. As for anarchy [words indistinct] I have established a better organized system. You should try to set up the utopian city, you should try to obtain the lost luxury, the authority, the revolution. The weapons are in the people's hands. It would be a shame if I obstruct the path of the march. I know that you have tried to obstruct it while it was clearly before your eyes. You have obstructed, you have plotted when things were unclear. Consequently, I told you, even yesterday I stated it before the whole world, that you had an excuse, because you were unable to see the full picture.

First of all, you had no idea about the revolution which I sparked off, the September Revolution. You did not know how it began, how I toiled to achieve it, how I and my colleagues, while we were students, faced danger, how I was tortured for its sake. How could you undermine it after all this, once that revolution had demolished the monarchy, evacuated the foreign bases, and launched the shout of freedom. It is a shame that you had to undermine it after all that. What sort of conscience is that? Now you have your conscience, it is all right.

But look at the reason. The reason is not me. I am not afraid. I am not afraid of those who oppose me. The United States opposes me, yet I am not afraid, despite all the bombs which it dropped on my head. Yet I kept saying that we will not capitulate, we will not weaken, we will continue the call of liberation, union, the liberation of Palestine, the struggle against imperialism, even if you have to strike with nuclear bombs.

I went through all the parties. Before forming the Free Unionist Officers Movement, men of all the parties knew me. At least I knew them. I had friends in the Ba'th, in the Pan-Arabist movement, in the Muslim Brothers, the communists, the Tahrir party—all these organizations. But I told them: The first thing you should understand is that I am too big to be contained by a party. I cannot be a member of a party, because Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi is bigger than any party in the world. I contain all the parties and all the liberation movements. A party cannot contain me, neither B'athist, socialist, rightist, or leftist, nothing. This is the first point. The first point is that I was not a member of a party because I was at the time bigger than any party, and all who were in the parties and are now in prison know this.

You should know that this road does not lead to salvation. I do not want to rule through a party, a party represents part of the people but the will of the people is indivisible. I want someone who rules the big party, the majority of the people. Suffice it to say that there is disunity and regionalism in the Arab world: a state, a kingdom, a sultanate, an emirate, a republic. Add to this regional dogma: B'athist, socialist, leftist, rightist. Why cannot this nation solve its problems by itself? Do we have to import a leadership from abroad? Do we have to import or not to import [ideas from abroad]? This does not interest me; what interests me is freedom and equality. That is all. This has been achieved. Call it what you like. Call it Marxism, communism, anarchism, Jamahiriyah, Qadhdhafist, al-Nasirite, whatever you like. What is important is that the objective has been achieved. [applause]

Consequently, dear brothers, what happened in the past [Al-Qadhdhafi changes thought] Perhaps, regrettably, some people were executed in past years. Courts sentenced tham and they were executed; but there is no surgery without blood. The grave transformations in history are accompanied by grave sacrifices. Some of you are intellectuals and know this. The grave changes in history do not easily take place. The grave transformations in history have never been achieved easily. Even Islam, when it moved from Medina to Mecca and from Mecca to Medina, had to pass over bodies of victims and an ocean of blood. The French Revolution, which created the era of republics, was named the era of terror and there were countless victims. The Russian Revolution, which has liberated [word indistinct] of the world, killed 10 million; 10 million people were victims. The grave transformations have never been achieved easily; they can only be achieved through a huge number of victims and blood. The victims and the blood should be of those who try to oppose the historical transformation, those who oppose freedom and the Jamahir's will.

I am not at all happy to see people being detained here; on the contrary, this matter does agonize me. My conscience has been tormenting me day in and day out for the past 18 years because there were people in prison. [crowd chants] As I am not a prison warden, O brothers, and as I am not a jailer, I came to liberate the prisoners. I found Al-Jadabiyyah prison full of workers who carried out the uprising in 1967 because of the aggression against Egypt; I liberated them and therefore I was the liberator and the breaker of shackles. How can you afterward accuse me and depict me as the jailer? But you are the ones who would make me so when you conspire against the revolution, oppose the liberation march, and compel me to imprison you and therefore make me a jailer. Well, this is not my nature; I am the liberator and not the jailer. I am the liberator of individuals, the Jamahir, the peoples, and the world. [crowd chants]

O brothers, this is still a day to remember and a lesson to learn. Today is the day of freedom and the demolition of the rest of the shackles. Let all minds, potentials, and activities be freed so as they may take part in the great march and in the historical confrontation. O brothers, all of us should leave the prisons in order to face up to the common enemy [crowd chants] in order to confront the United States and Zionism, liberate Palestine, and unify the Arab nation. [crowd chants] O brothers, we have the right to proudly tell the whole world that we support freedom and justice. O Libyans, you have the right to be proud in front of Arabs and the world because you support freedom, break the shackles, liberate slaves, and destroy prisons. This prison will be demolished and I hope no one will ever be detained in it. [crowd chants]

O brothers, I am asking you to go out to enjoy freedom and light in order to take part in the battle against imperialism and Zionism, as well as in order to liberate Palestine and unify the Arab nation. O brothers, I am asking you, O brothers [crowd chants] when the Prophet went and conquered Mecca he said to those who fought him and those who threw stones at him till his feet bled and even those who tried to kill him: What do you think I am going to do to you today? They replied: You are a good brother, the son of a good brother. He said: Go then, you are free. Well, go brothers you are free. Forward brothers, toward light and freedom. Let the Sudanese hymn, the Sudanese Arab hymn heard on the radio, which says:

Morning has broken, no prison or jailer will remain; Dawn has two wings, Both of them view you from the horizon and sadness blackens the inner corner of the eye to bind ties together and scatter you everywhere; A joyful cry coming from every sad heart, for you, O my country, be heard. [crowd chants]

Al-Qadhdhafi To Free Foreign Prisoners 5 March

LD042216 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Following the address by the brother leader of the revolution before the General People's Congress during the 11th anniversary of the establishment of the people's authority and the birth of the first Jamahiriyah in history and the fact that the great Al-Fatih Revolution has since its beginning, been a declaration of freedom, 400 inmates have been freed following the demolition of the prison at which they were held by the brother leader of the revolution. Thus no walls—behind which human beings can be held or their freedom restricted—can exist in the land of the Great Jamahiriyah.

In harmony with this historical position by the brother leader of the revolution, prisoners who are citizens of foreign countries will also be freed.

The People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison calls upon ambassadors and charges d'affaires accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah and whose countries have citizens imprisoned to contact the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison in order to make arrangements for their release starting tomorrow, Saturday, 5 March.

UK's James Abra To Be Released 'Soon'

LD061342 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 1321 GMT 6 Mar 88

[by Paul Fuller, PRESS ASSOCIATION]

[Text] Hopes were raised today that British engineer James Abra, serving a life sentence in a Libyan prison for alleged spying, will soon be released. The Foreign Office in London confirmed that the Libyan Government has indicated that it intends to release foreign prisoners and a spokesman said: "We have no reason to believe that Mr Abra will not be among them."

Mr Abra, of Hitchin, Herts, had been working for Plessey as an engineer on Libyan military radar systems when he was arrested at Tripoli Airport in June, 1985, and accused of "endangering revolutionary security by passing information to agents of a foreign power".

Libya's official news agency JANA announced that ambassadors and other diplomats assigned to Libya had been summoned on Friday to the Libyan Foreign Ministry and were told to make arrangements for the release of their nationals from Libyan prisons. The dispatch, monitored in Rome, did not say how many prisoners were involved, when they would be released, or give details of their nationalities.

Mr Abra is the only Briton currently held in Libya. The Foreign Office said today the Libyan announcement appeared to be genuine.

British diplomatic interests in Libya are being looked after by the Italians who have forwarded to the Libyan authorities the name of Mr Abra as well as that of a number of Italians being held. A Foreign Office spokesman said: "The next move is up to the Libyans. We will just have to wait and see what happens."

Mr Abra's Czech-born wife Radislava died last July from a heart attack following a fire at their home. Mr Ron Brown, Labour MP for Leith, who is a personal friend of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi made representations to the Libyan Foreign Ministry during a visit last September but failed to secure Mr Abra's release.

Official Denies Troops Present in N. Chad

LD051355 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Mar (JANA)—The propaganda outlets of the Ndjamena gang have been repeating their usual lies that Libyan troops are present in northern Chad, and that other Libyan forces are moving to join what they call an Islamic legion.

In response to Ndjamena's statements, a source from the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison says the following:

1. There is no truth in the statements made by the Ndjamena gang that there are Libyan troops in northern Sudan, or that Libyan forces are joining what they call an Islamic legion.

2. The Jamahiriyah affirms what it has already conveyed its categorical denial to the OAU chairman and secretary general, and to the chairman of the Good Offices Committee.

3. With these lies, agent Habre fully understands the situation on the eastern border of Chad, and he knows even better the situation in the east, center, and suburbs of Ndjamena. He realizes that the Oueddei, Salamat, Rzigat and Hajra tribes have been fighting his forces for more than a year; he has lost control over these areas.

4. Agent Habre cannot hide the acts of plundering, killing, and destruction perpetrated by his armed gangs in the territories of neighboring states, so he repeats his lies that there are Libyan forces, and what he calls an Islamic legion, in Sudan. He knows this is not the truth.

5. Confronting the ordeals of a possible rebellion, and the total rejection of his existence as head of a gang practicing plunder, robbery, and killings against the Chadian people, agent Habre is now engaged in a policy of aggression against Sudan's borders and preparing an attack against the territory of the Jamahiriyah, another aspect of his policy.

Sudan's Al-Mahdi Sends Al-Qadhdhafi Letter

LD061158 Tripoli JANA in English 1105 GMT Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Marikh [March] 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the prime minister of sisterly Sudan, has saluted the nationalist stances of the leader of the revolution.

In a letter to the leader of the revolution, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi lauded the generous assistance provided by the Libyan Arab people for their brotherly Sudanese Arab people during their struggle against agent Numayri and after the 6th April People's Revolution.

Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi reasserted in his letter Sudanese desire to go along the path of unity and cooperation until the will of the Arab people for unity, liberty and dignity is realised.

Envoy to Iraq on Iran's 'Positive' Response

LD051238 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, 5 Mar 88 (JANA)—The envoy of the brother leader of the revolution is continuing his mission in Baghdad in the wake of the developments of the Iraq-Iran war resulting from the resumption of the war of the cities between Iraq and Iran.

JANA has learned that the Iranian leadership has given positive signals that will help in halting the war of the cities within the frameowrk of the brother leader's efforts to contain the explosive situation stemming from the resumption of the shelling of the cities.

Efforts To End Gulf War Noted

LD061750 Tripoli JANA in English 1700 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Marikh 6, [6 March], JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Great Jamahiriyah is exerting intensive efforts to an end to the war of cities which once again broke out between Iraq and Iran throughout last week. It kept in constant touch with the two parties following the serious development of the situation as a result of the mutual shelling of Baghdad and Tehran.

The leader of the revolution has immediately sent a personal emissary to Iraq and met with President Saddam Husayn.

Also contacts were conducted with the Iranian revolutionary leadership and as a result Iraq accepts a halt to the whole war and not part of it and Iran asserted that it accepts the shelling of the cities with the continuation of the war.

Great Jamahiriyah considers that this war has seen the collapse of fighting ethics and went beyond the international law of war and it became clear that the laws of war were not adhered to besides its contempt to the Islamic ethics and Islam and it did not respect the months of Al-Haram, in which war is banned.

The delegate of Great Jamahiriyah to the United Nations was requested to inform the secretary general of the UN and the president of the Security Council of the results of the efforts exerted by Great Jamahiriyah towards a halt of the war.

Sudan

Soviet Cooperation Delegation Arrives 4 Mar

JN051236 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 5 Mar 88

[text] Port Sudan, Mar. 5 (SUNA)—A higher-level cooperative Soviet delegation arrived here yesterday in this eastern port of Sudan to be acquainted with the activities of cooperative movement in the Red Sea province. The delegation met with officials at the province and discussed with them issues pertinent to the cooperative movement.

'Foreign' Troops Repulsed in Western Border Area

JN051232 Khartoum SUNA in English 1020 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, March 5 (SUNA)—The Armed Forces during the recent weeks repulsed some foreign armed troops in the western border area and drove them out of the Sudanese territories, according to a statement issued here yesterday by the Army General Command.

The statement reiterated the Armed Forces readiness to repulse any foreign presence on the country's soil indicating that it would not align itself to any party of the foreign disputing forces who the statement said were trying to transfer their conflict to western Sudan.

The Western Military Area Command has since last year launched [words indistinct] which covered the whole Darfur Province [words indistinct] successfully pursued, captured and drove out of the Sudanese territories a number of foreign troops" [quotation mark as received] the statement added, it did not elaborate.

Nasir Asserts No Foreign Troops Within Border

JN051540 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1415 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, 5 Mar (SUNA)—Major General Fadlallah Burma Nasir, minister of state for defense, has asserted there is not a single foreign soldier inside the country's borders at present. In a statement to the newspaper AL-SIYASAH published here this morning, Saturday, Burma pointed out that the Sudanese Armed Forces are continuing to fan out inside Sudan's western border to prevent any of the rival Chadian factions from crossing it. Burma also admitted that pursuits by the Chadian Government forces and the forces of Acheikh ibn Oumar have had their effects on the border areas.

Burma said the airspace violations by foreign aircraft are a natural outcome of fighting in areas close to the Sudanese borders. He pointed out that reports on the security situation in those areas are exaggerated, as the security there has begun to deteriorate. Burma asserted that Sudan's stand is consistent, and that it is not a party to inter-Chadian disputes or to ongoing regional disputes over adjacent borders. He stressed that the government does not accept the use of the country's territory for military purposes and that appropriate decisions are taken on any information concerning any border crossing. He said the Armed Forces recently seized 11 small trucks and captured military equipment as part of their security plan in Darfur.

Liberation of Kapoeta Said Coming 'Soon'

JN061118 Khartoum SUNA in English 1045 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Khartoum, Mar 6 (SUNA)—Equatorian town of Kapoeta is about to be evacuated by the rebels and it will be liberated soon, an official military source told AL-AYYAM newspaper. The source said that the situation in the south is now under the control of the Armed Forces and food situation has improved after the arrival of relief boats in Malakal, Upper Nile. Kapoeta was captured by the rebels last January.

Further Reportage on SPLA Military Activities

Militia Base Captured

EA051454 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Combined SPLA forces of Nile Battalion under direct command of Captain Dominic Deng Deng, and of Najah Battalion under direct command of Caption John Lem Chuol and overall command of alternate commander (Chola Yual), attacked and captured one of Mr Sadiq al-Mahdi's militia bases at (Bien Nam) on the 18th of last month. A correspondent for Radio SPLA in the area says that more than 20 militiamen of Sadiq al-Mahdi were killed and many others were injured. [passage omitted]

The correspondent says that 400 head of cattle which were looted from the citizens of Sadiq al-Mahdi's militiamen were all retrieved, and the owners have been asked to go and collect them.

'More than 100' Killed

EA041721 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Bright Star forces, under the overall operational command of Alternate Commander (Anthony Bol Madut), launched an attack on the enemy troops in Keyala on 24th of last month and inflicted very heavy casualties on the enemy in manpower and military equipment. Following this attack, the commander of the SPLA forces in the area, Alternate Commander (Anthony Bol Madut), has again advised the enemy troops in Keyala to evacuate peacefully to avoid unnecessary loss of life. [passage omitted]

Details of the battle of Biliniang, in which more than 100 enemy soldiers were killed on the 24th of last month, are still coming in. According to a Radio SPLA correspondent in the area, the long vehicle that was destroyed in the battle was one of the trucks donated by the British Government to the relief agencies in Juba, which were commandeered by Al-Sadiq's soldiers in early February this year. The vehicle in question is a Nissan No 9131. It was loaded with barrels of fuel, sacks of food and many other materials, including cooking utensils, pick-axes and sleeping (?bags) for the Army. All were burnt, including some secret documents, some of which are now in possession of the SPLA commander in the area.

Saudi Arabia

King Mediates Return of Libyan MiGs From Egypt

LD051841 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Mar (SPA)—Replying to a question by SPA about His Excellency Husni Mubarak's statement concerning his contact with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, with regard to the return of the Libyan aircraft to Libya, a responsible source said:

The custodian of the two holy mosques has embarked on this brotherly good effort following a telephone contact from his brother President [as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, who expressed a desire to have the custodian of the two holy mosques mediate with President Husni Mubarak on ensuring the return of four Libyan aircraft to Libya.

The source added: Out of King Fahd's eagerness to realize the request of his brother President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, he immediately telephoned his brother His Excellency President Husni Mubarak and conveyed to him the desire of His Excellency President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. His Excellency President Husni Mubarak thereupon expressed his benevolent response to this mediation and requested that Libyan technicians be sent from Libya to check the aircraft before their departure from the Egyptian airport on their return to Libya. The source added that following this arrangement a Libyan aircraft with Libyan experts and technicians on board arrived at Riyadh airport.

This aircraft will leave tomorrow for Egypt to complete the mission of the Libyan technicians.

The source concluded its statement to SPA by saying: Thereafter, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, expressed to his brother President Husni Mubarak his deep thanks for this response which indicates his excellency's benevolent character and his good intentions toward narrowing the differences between Arab brothers.

Yemen Arab Republic

Salih Receives PDRY Leaders' Message

JN061425 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, YSP Political Bureau member and secretary of the national committee, and Col Haytham Qasim Tahir, first deputy defense minister and chief of staff in the southern part of the homeland, at his office in the Presidential Palace today.

They conveyed a message to President Salih from Brothers 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP Central Committee secretary general; Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; and members of the YSP Political Bureau. The message deals with issues of interest to our Yemeni people and joint cooperation between the two parts of Yemen.

During the meeting, President Salih stressed his concern for a sincere desire to support all efforts bolstering the march of joint understanding and cooperation between the two parts of Yemen in the interest of our people in the one Yemeni homeland in a manner checking the plots of the enemies of security, stability, and the achievements of our people. He said all the homeland's achievements are in the interest of all citizens in the one Yemeni homeland.

Attending the meeting were Mujahid Abu Shawarib, deputy prime minister for internal affairs and Standing Committee member; Lt Col 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of staff and Standing Committee member; Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for Yemeni unity affairs and Standing Committee member; and Lt Col 'Ali Muhsin Salih, Standing Committee member.

Delegation Departs With Message

JN062056 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Brothers Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, YSP Political Bureau member and secretary of the Central Committee, and Colonel Haytham Qasim Tahir, YSP Political Bureau candidate member, first deputy defense minister, and chief of staff in the southern part of the homeland, and the delegation accompanying them left Sanaa this evening following a visit lasting several days.

During the visit they met with a number of officials and conveyed a message to Brother President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, YSP Central Committee secretary general; Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium; and members of the YSP Political Bureau in the southern part of the homeland.

In a statement to SABA', Brother Fadl Muhsin said the brother president asked him to convey a reply message to the brother officials in the southern part of the homeland. He pointed out that the meetings between officials in the two parts of the homeland will recur. They were seen off by Brothers Lt Col 'Abdallah Husayn al-Bashiri, chief of the general staff and Standing Committee member; Yahya Husayn al-'Arashi, minister of state for unity affairs and Standing Committee member; and a number of officials.

President, Command Councils Discuss Strikes

JN051310 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Mar (INA)—President Saddam Husayn this morning presided over a joint meeting of the RCC and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command. The conferees discussed the developments in the military and political situation, particularly the successful missile strikes to deter the Iranian aggressions against Baghdad, Basra, and other Iraqi cities. The criminal Iranian regime continued these aggressions despite our continuous and clear warnings.

The conferees affirmed that the Iranian regime's insistence on shelling Basra and the other Iraqi border cities with artillery and launchers, and on launching missiles on Baghdad despite the military spokesman's warning on 27 February 1988 is evidence of the determination of that regime. This regime insists on war and aggression. It is determined to ignite the cities' war in the service of its alliance with the Zionist enemy. That regime aims at diverting the attention of the international community, the Islamic world, and the regional countries from the impasse facing the Zionist entity because of the brave uprising of the Arab Palestinian people.

Thus, that regime is repeating what it did in 1982, when it embarked on its offensive on the east of Al-Basrah at the same time as the Zionist forces were besieging Beirut to destroy the Palestinian resistance.

As the objectives of the Iranian regime have been exposed, deterrence with successful blows constitutes a necessary punishment to that criminal regime, which is deeply immersed in the desire to kill and destroy.

The conferees asserted that our missile forces will continue the legitimate deterrence operations in the service of the issue of permanent peace. Peace can only be achieved when the Iranian regime abandons its aggressive course and accepts peace through its acceptance of Resolution No 598 and its implementation in accordance with the sequence of its paragraphs. This is the clear way to achieve peace, security, and stability in the region.

The RCC and the Ba'th Regional Command praised the achievement of the strugglers in the military industries through their manufacturing of the Iraqi Al-Husayn missile. This missile came as a new testament to the genuius of the Iraqi people and as an evidence of their determination and capability to develop and to ensure the requirements of superiority in confronting the aggression.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Missile Strikes Noted

JN041742 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,048 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 4 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. World public opinion today sympathizes with Iraq's legitimate right to self-defense. International legitimacy also takes the side of the free will of our people to end Iranian aggression against our land, sanctities, and free choices. We have every right to pound the dens of crime in Iranian cities, with the capital Tehran topping the list, after the culprits have carried their arrogance to the extreme by targeting our children, women, and the elderly, as well as our houses in our peaceful cities.

The Al-Husayn missiles that have made the thunderous voice of the Iraqi peace calls heard by even the deaf among the rulers of Tehran will continue to be directed at the capital of the charlatans. The following was achieved over the past 24 hours:

1. At 1340 [1040 GMT] today, an Al-Husayn missile was fired at Tehran.

2. At 1730 [1430 GMT] today, another missile was fired at Tehran.

May God bless all of those who conceived, planned, worked on, executed, and helped in this achievement. They have all drawn inspiration from the genious spirit of our beloved leader, may God protect him. They have also been enlightened by his sound instructions. They are the best, honest, and active guardians of their homeland.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 Mar 1988

Communique No 3,049

JN041821 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,049 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 4 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Iraq's heroic men, defending right and their dear homeland, are continuing their heroic stand against the evil ruling clique of Iran. The following are the results of their activities for last night and today:

1. A single-barreled machinegun was destroyed, its crew killed, and an ammunition dump blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector.

2. An observation post and an infantry position were destroyed in the I Special Army Corps, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. A scoundrel was killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. Ten enemy personnel were killed, a single-barreled machinegun and automatic shovel [preceding word in English] were destroyed, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the VII Army Corps sector.

5. A number of Iranian military and civilian personnel sought refuge with our front units. They were safely transferred to the rear lines.

6. At 1655 [1355 GMT] today, the enemy fired a missile from those supplied by the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation at Baghdad, the city of good and love. The missile landed in a residential neighborhood and martyred or wounded a number of people, including women and children. The missile destroyed or damaged homes, businesses, and other property. The criminal enemy also shelled residential neighborhoods in Basra and the citadel of Dizah, martyring or wounding a number of people, including women and children, and damaging homes and other property. Mercy and forgiveness for our martyrs and a swift recovery for our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 4 March 1988

Baghdad Targeted 5 Mar

JN050601 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0543 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman 5 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 0617 [0317 GMT] the criminal rulers of Tehran fired the missiles supplied to them by the Arab nation's enemies at lofty Baghdad. The missile landed in a residential area, martyring and wounding a number of citizens, including women and children. Civilian property, shops, and cars were also damaged.

The criminals will only reap more devastating and continuous blows from these practices until they accept truth and peace. Mercy and forgiveness to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Dated] 5 March 1988

Aircraft Hit Hamadan 5 Mar

JN051035 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1016 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 5 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1055 [0755 GMT] today, our daring Air Force aircraft carried out a destructive raid on the city of Hamadan. Our aircraft pounded their targets and returned safely to base, in God's care and protection.

This mission is pursuant to our people's will to carry out a devastating deterrence against the Iranian rulers, who insist on war and who continued to shell residential areas, killing defenseless people, particularly women and children, without any deterrence from ethics or conscience. We will continue to do so until they stop their crimes and resort to peace. Success comes from God.

[Dated] 5 March 1988

Iranian Artillery Shells Basra

JN051055 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1027 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Basra, 5 Mar (INA)—Last night and this morning, Basra was a target for Iranian long-range artillery shelling and missiles. The INA correspondent in Basra today said that the enemy bombardment of residential areas martyred and wounded many civilians. The INA correspondent added that the enemy shelling, which is still going on at this hour, damaged a number of civilian houses and cars.

Air Raids on Kashan, Dezful

JN051330 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1312 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 5 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Pursuant to the crushing deterrence process against the criminal Iranian rulers, the planes of our brave Air Force dealt their crushing blows for the second time today. They carried out the following two missions:

1. At 1419 [1119 GMT] today, our planes infiltrated 500 km into Iranian territory, and dealt a destructive blow to the city of Kashan.

2. At 1441 today, our planes dealt a destructive blow to the city of Dezful, destroying their targets. After carrying out these two heroic missions, all of our planes returned safely and victorious to base in God's care. Blessed be our heroic Air Force—command, hawks, officers, and other ranks. God be praised for his victory.

[Dated] 5 March 1988

Communique No 3,050

JN051650 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1608 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,050 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our gigantic Air Force, which has achieved great victories in the glorious Saddam's Al-Qadisiyah battle, the battle of the defense of Iraq and the Iraqi people, is continuing its contributions, as usual, to all the glorious crushing battles to inflict punishment on those who have rejected peace and ignited the war of the cities. Our planes flew the following heroic missions today:

1. At 1055 [0755 GMT] today, a destructive blow was dealt to the city of Hamadan.

2. At 1419 today, a destructive blow was dealt to the city of Kashan.

3. At 1241 today, a destructive blow was dealt to the city of Dezful.

4. At 1540 today, a destructive blow was dealt to a power station east of Shahabad.

5. At 1540 today, a destructive blow was dealt to the Shahabad camp.

6. At 1545 today, a destructive blow was dealt to the Kermanshah [Bakhtaran] sugar factory.

7. At 1547 today, a destructive blow was dealt to the oil refineries in Kermanshah.

8. At 1549 today, a destructive blow was dealt to the city of Pol-e Dokhtar.

9. At 1553 today, a destructive blow was dealt to the industrial installations in Kuhdasht.

10. At 1600 today, a blow was dealt to military installations in Kuhdasht.

After carrying out all these heroic missions accurately and bravely, as usual all our hawks returned safely to base. God be praised.

On scoundrel Khomeyniites: This is Iraq and this is Iraq's reply, and you have no choice but to listen to the call of right and peace. Blessed be our Air Force—commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks. Praised be God, the supporter of the faithful.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 March 1988

Plane Downings Denied

JN051800 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1648 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Mar (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has refuted Iranian allegations that three Iraqi planes were shot down. He affirmed that all the Iraqi planes, which carried out destructive raids in Iranian territory today, returned safely to base.

In a statement to INA this evening, the Iraqi spokesman said: We expect such lies because the Iranian Government experienced a real disaster today, when Iraq carried out seven missile strikes against Tehran during the past 24 hours.

The military spokesman also said that all raids occured not less that 100 km inside Iranian territory, defying Iran to give evidence of downing any Iraqi plane. Concluding his statement, the Iraqi spokesman stressed that such lies will not save the Iranian Government from its current crisis.

Communique No 3,052

JN051733 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1708 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,052 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 5 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our Armed Forces continued their activities last night and today as follows:

1. One scoundrel was killed and eight light rocket launchers were found in the I Army Corps northern sector.

2. One observation post and two assorted positions were destroyed; one of the enemy personnel was killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

3. One machinegun was destroyed and those manning it were killed, and one shovel [preceding word in English] was burned in the VII Army Corps front.

4. The criminal Iranian enemy fired two missiles at Baghdad today, the first at 0617 [0317 GMT], and the second at 1944. The two incidents martyred a number of citizens and wounded others. A number of women and children were among the martyrs and wounded. They also damaged a number of houses, shops, and cars. The Iranian regime shelled residential areas in the cities of Basra, Al-Sulaymaniyah, Khanaqin, and Badrah. The enemy shelling martyred a number of citizens and wounded others, including a number of women and children. They also demolished a number of houses and damaged other houses and properites. Paradise to our martyrs and swift recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 March 1988

24 Hours of Strikes Summed Up

JN051828 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1750 GMT 5 Mar 88

["Communique No 3,051 issued by the Armed Forces General Command"—INA headline]

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Mar (INA)—In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In defense of our land and in implementation of our duties toward our citizens in our dear cities, our heroic missile force continued, through the efforts of our men in the military industry and our brave men of the missile force, their violent attack against the dens of the aggressors, who ignited the war of the cities although we have repeatedly warned them. The Iranian regime is trying to evade the will of the international community.

Our missile force carried out from 2000 [1700 GMT] last night until 2000 today the following attacks with Al-Husayn missiles, which are the product of creative Iraqi thought and the strong arms of Iraqi men, who are implementing the instructions of their enlightened leader, Saddam Husayn, God preserve him.

1. At 2115 yesterday, the 22d missile strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was launched at Tehran.

2. At 0435 today, the 23d strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was launched at Tehran.

3. At 0800 today, the 24th strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was launched at Tehran.

4. At 1129 today, the 25th strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was launched at Tehran.

5. At 1140 today, the 26th strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was launched at Tehran.

6. At 1315 today, the 27th strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was launched at Tehran.

7. At 1340 today, the 28th strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was launched at Tehran.

We congratulate the lofty Iraqis and the glorious Iraqi women for this victory. Go ahead to achieve other victories. God is with us on the path of great victory.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 5 March 88

Baghdad Hit by Missile

JN052001 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Mar (INA)—The Iranian regime fired a missile at 2126 [1826 GMT] today. The missile landed in one of the residential areas in the city of Baghdad.

In a statement to INA this evening, an Iraqi military spokesman said that the missile attack martyred and wounded a number of citizens, including a number of women and children, and damaged a number of houses and civilian property.

Iranian Missile Hits Baghdad

JN060627 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 6 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 0657 [0357 GMT] today, the Zionist Khomeyniites fired one of the missiles supplied to them by the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation on the city of Baghdad. The missile fell on a residential area, martyring several citizens and wounding others. Several children and and women are among the martyrs and wounded. The missile also demolished or damaged several houses, shops, and civilian cars. We ask God to make our pure martyrs rest in paradise and we wish speedy recovery to our wounded.

[Dated] 6 March 1988

Iranian Plane Hits Irbil 6 Mar

JN060811 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Mar (INA)—An Iranian warplane raided residential areas in Irbil in northern Iraq at 0757 [0457 GMT] today.

A military spokesman said that as a result of this raid, several civilians, including women and children, were martyred or wounded, and several houses and properties were damaged.

Communique Sums Up Air Raids

JN061215 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1127 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,053 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 6 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our giant Air Force aircraft today carried out the following heroic missions deep inside enemy territory:

1. At 2215 [1915 GMT] yesterday, several of our aircraft carried out a destructive raid against Rasht, pounding their targets.

2. At 1030 today, our aircraft carried out a devastating raid against 'Ilam.

3. At 1116 today, the brave hawks carried out a violent raid against Marivan camp, inflicting heavy losses on the enemy rogues, their weapons, military hardware, and ammunition warehouses.

4. At 1119 today, our aircraft carried out a destructive raid against the industrial facilities in Miandoab, pounding their targets and setting them on fire.

5. At 1121 today, our aircraft carried out a destructive raid against Saqqez.

6. At 1122 today, several of our aircraft carried out a violent raid against the Sanandaj camp, inflicting heavy losses on the Khomeyniite rogues and on their weapons, military hardware, and ammunition warehouses.

7. At 1217 today, our aircraft carried out a destructive raid against Zanjan.

8. At 1244, our aircraft carried out a devastating raid against Borujerd. pounding their targets.

9. At 1250, our aircraft carried out a second raid against 'Ilam, pounding their targets.

10. At 1300, our aircraft raided the city of Malayer and pounded their targets.

11. At the same time, other aircraft were dealing other violent blows to the city of Borujerd, pounding their targets.

12. At 1313, our aircraft launched a destructive raid on the Do Rud railway station.

13. At 1320, our aircraft delivered a strong strike at the industrial installations in the city of Arak.

14. At 1323, our aircraft delivered a destructive strike at the economic installations in Khorramabad, pounded their targets, and set them ablaze.

15. At 1352, our aircraft launched a destructive raid on the city of Dezful, destroying their targets.

16. At 1430, our aircraft raided the sugar plant west of Shushtar, dealing it a violent blow.

These devastating and heroic raids carried out by our Air Force, Iraq's efficient arm and Iraq's ever brandished sword in the face of the renegade enemies, are part of the devastating retaliation our daring Air Force and our heroic missile force are undertaking to punish the Iranian regime for its crimes against our beloved cities and against the lives, security, and properties of our citizens. These raids confirm Iraq's strength and its overwhelming superiority over those who continue to insist on war and those who have ignited the war of the cities. We will prove to them through tangible facts that as long as the war continues and escalates, Iraq will remain the victorious party in every field. The enemies will only reap further losses and destruction.

May God bless our heroic Air Force—commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks. We thank God who supports the faithful believers.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 March 1988

Communique Sums Up Strikes

JN061740 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1706 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,054 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 6 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The great intensity with which Iraq is striking at the dens of charlatans in their capital, Tehran, and in the center of the Khomeyniite charlatanism, Qom, is escalating with God's help. It is the blessed fruit of what has been constructed by our great leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. The following missile strikes with the Al-Husayn missiles were launched today to stress our rights and duty to defend our citizens in our dear cities and to deter the Iranian regime, which has ignited the cities war:

1. At 0500 [0200 GMT] today, the 29th blow was dealt with the Al-Husayn missiles against the city of Tehran.

2. At 1630 today, the 30th missile blow was dealt with the Al-Husayn missiles against the city of Tehran.

3. At 1700 today, the 31st blow was dealt with the Al-Husayn missiles against the city of Tehran.

4. At 1809 today, the 32d blow was dealt with the Al-Husayn missiles against the city of Tehran.

5. At 1910 today, the 33d blow was dealt with the Al-Husayn missiles against the city of Tehran.

Through God's help and the efforts of the loyal men of the military industry and the heroic Al-Husayn missile forces, we will continue to deal blows of deterrence to the Tehran rulers. They have ignitied the cities war to give vent to their grudges toward our people and to obstruct peace efforts. They are also doing this to distract the attention of world public opinion away from the revolution of our people in Palestine. But lofty Iraq is capable, with God's help, of inflicting a punishment on these tyrannical and unjust agents.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 March 1988

Communique No 3,055

JN061752 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1709 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Communique No 3,055 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 6 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our triumphant forces continued their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. The planes of our heroic Air Force today carried out 118 combat missions deep in enemy territory. Some of these missions, which were carried out against enemy units, were detailed in Communique No 3,053. All our planes returned safely to base, except one. We hold the Iranian side responsible for the life of its pilot.

2. Our daring helicopter gunships carried out 67 combat missions today, during which they inflicted further losses on the enemy. All our helicopters returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. Sixteen scoundrels were killed and 3 vehicles and a bulldozer were destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

4. Three enemy personnel were killed and two observation posts and a machinegun emplacement were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. Three infantry positions were destroyed and their personnel killed, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris.

6. At 0657 [0357 GMT] today, the enemy fired one of its missiles, which were supplied to it by the enemies of Iraq and the Arab nation, against the city of Baghdad. As a result, several civilians were martyred, including a number of women and children, and several others were wounded, including a number of women and children. Several houses, shops, and civilian cars were also damaged. Two enemy planes also raided residential areas, in the city of Irbil. As a result, several civilians were martyred or wounded, including a number of women and children.

The criminal Iranian regime also directed its long-range artillery against the cities of Basra, Khanaqin, Qal'at Salih, and Badrah. The enemy shelling martyred and wounded several citizens, including women and children, and destroyed and damaged several houses, shops, and civilian cars. May God have mercy and forgiveness on our martyrs and grant swift recovery for our wounded.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 6 March 1988

Planes Raid Shiraz 6 Mar

JN061841 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1816 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 6 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1936 [1636 GMT] today, the planes of our heroic Air Force flew a destructive raid on the city of Shiraz. After performing this duty, all of our planes returned safely to base. God be praised. This measure comes as part of the crushing deterrent operation to confront the Iranian regime's agression against our peaceful cities and its insistence on war and aggression.

[Dated] 6 March 1988

Downing of Planes Denied

JN062006 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1938 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Tehran Radio's announcement this evening that two Iraqi planes were shot down. The spokesman said that one of the planes, which carried out their duties today, fell in enemy territory.

Baghdad Hit by Missile

JN062131 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2119 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 6 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 2333 [2033 GMT] today, the Zionist Iranian regime fired one of its missiles, obtained from the enemies of both Iraq and the Arab nation, at Baghdad. The missile fell on a residential area, martyring a number of civilians and wounding others. A number of women and children were among the martyrs and wounded. The missile also destroyed and damaged several houses, shops, and civilian cars. Paradise to our martyrs and speedy recovery to our wounded, God willing.

[Dated] 6 March 1988

34th Missile Strike Launched

JN070535 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0513 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 7 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our great people march confidently toward freedom and progress under their beloved leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. Our great people are fighting in defense of their territory bravely, just like our lofty ancestors who fought bravely in defense of the divine messages. Our great people will make the designs of the aggressors rebound and destroy the dens of charlatanism over the heads of their owners, as a result of the Khomeyniites crimes against our people in their safe cities. Consequently, the 34th strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was launched at Tehran at 0730 [0430 GMT] today.

O heroes of the military industries and fighters of our missile force, you have the right to be proud of your achievements and to enjoy God's blessing and the love of the people and the leader.

[Dated] 7 March 1988.

35th Strike Reported

JN070635 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0615 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 7 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 0900 [0600 GMT] today, the 35th missile strike with the Al-Husayn missiles was launched at Tehran. These devastating blows, which express the high capability of our country and its ability to confront the enemies in all fields, affirm that the lofty Iraqis cannot remain silent in the face of injustice. They refuse to see the Iranian rulers or others continuing aggression against our border in an attempt to encroach on our sovereignty and to commit ugly crimes against safe cities, particularly our glorious capital, Baghdad, and the cities of Basra, Zubayr, Al-Qurnah, Al-'Uzayr, Badrah, Khanaqin, Al-Sulaymaniyah, Qal'at Dizah, Bimalik, and others.

The Iranians should realize now, not later, that they are too weak to fight Iraq and that they will pay heavily. These are the lofty Iraqis, who rely on God and who are marching behind their leaders banner.

[Dated] 7 March 1988

Iranian Plane Strikes in North

JN070908 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0848 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Mar (INA)—An Iranian plane violated Iraqi airspace at 0723 [0423 GMT], targeting residential areas in the Sadiq District in the Irbil Governorate, northern Iraq. The Iraqi military spokesman said that a number of women, old men, and children were martyred in the incident.

5 Enemy Boats Sunk at Al-'Amiq

JN070959 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0939 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 7 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With God's help and the zealous men's determination, the glorious Iraqis have continued their victories over their enemies. At 0310 [0010 GMT] today, the enemy sent 14 boats in an attempt to approach the loading platform of the Al-'Amiq Port. Our brave naval units and the courageous port force confronted them, destroying five enemy boats, sinking them along with their scoundrels. Praise be to the men of the brave port force and our Navy. Praise be to God, for His victory.

[Dated] 7 March 1988

'Brutal' Shelling of Basra

JN071012 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Mar (INA)—The city of Basra, southern Iraq, has been the target of brutal Iranian long-range artillery and missile bombardment throughout last night and this morning. An INA correspondent said that the enemy bombardment resulted in a number martyrs and wounded, including women and children. Houses and shops were damaged and civilian cars were also set ablaze. The INA correspondent said that the strictly residential areas of Basra are the target of the Iranian shelling.

36th Strike on Tehran Reported

JN071155 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1136 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Statement by a military spokesman dated 7 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 1400 [1100 GMT] today, the 36th blow with the Al-Husayn missiles was dealt against Tehran. This is in continuation of the devastating deterrence which comes as implementation of our heroic people's will to punish the perpetrators of the Balat al-Shuhada' crime, those who have encroached on all international values and norms, and all ethical principles, ignoring Iraq's wisdom and patience.

Today, we affirm as we affirmed in the past that they made incorrect calculations and that prolonging the war and igniting the cities' war only mean inflicting new defeats on them and destroying their dens.

God bless our men of the military industries and our missile force. The Iraqis' feet will remain over the heads of enemies, with God's help.

[Dated] 7 March 1988

Fatah Claims Car Bomb Intended for Shultz

TA042128 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] The Fatah organization has assumed responsibility for the attempt to explode a car bomb in the heart of Jerusalem. The organization's announcement, released in Beirut, states that Secretary Shultz was supposed to be the target. The Fatah claims that the driver of the car bomb had an accident, and had run into an electricity pole 30 minutes before the bomb was slated to go off. He abandoned the vehicle and fled.

'Terrorists' Hijack Bus Along Beersheba Road

6 Casualties Reported

TA071155 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1146 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Here is a report we have actually been sitting on, waiting several hours for the censorship on it to be lifted:

Three civilians were killed this morning when a terrorist squad overtook a bus along the Beersheba-Dimona road near the 'Aro'er Junction, approximately 20 km southeast of Beersheba. IDF units and police forces under the supervision of the Southern Command encircled the area. At around 1030 [0830 GMT] the bus was overtaken by a special border police antiterror unit. In the course of this operation, the three terrorists were killed and the passengers released. The victims were two women and a man. Their families have been notified.

Further Details on Hijacking

TA071217 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1149 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that at 0745 [0545 GMT] between three and six terrorists overtook a military Renault in which three officers were driving. The officers managed to flee.

Meanwhile, the terrorists started to drive and began to fire at a tourist minibus belonging to the Negev Iris tourist company. The driver, Rafi Kohen, was slightly wounded and received first aid at the Magen David Adom station, and was later discharged.

According to an unconfirmed report, a driver of a van spotted suspicious movement and blocked the width of the road. A bus transporting employees of the Dimona Nuclear Research Center was traveling in the opposite direction. It carried approximately 50 women, most of whom managed to escape, leaving only 6 behind on the bus.

The defense minister, the chief of staff, the commander of the Southern Command, the police inspector general, as well as a large IDF force arrived at the scene. As we said, the security forces—the special antiterror unit—managed to overtake the bus. [passage omitted]

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that at around 0700, three terrorists overtook an army Renault-4 with three officers in it. The terrorists killed one of the officers while the two others fled.

The terrorists traveled along the Beersheba-Dimona highway, throwing a grenade at an Israeli semitrailer, which managed to continue for several meters before stopping.

From the opposite direction, the bus transporting workers from the Dimona nuclear power station came along. The terrorists fired at the bus and hurled grenades at it until it halted. Most of the passengers and the driver managed to flee, but nine [as heard] women and one civilian still remained on the bus.

The terrorists continued to drive the bus in the direction of 'Arad, meanwhile shooting at cars traveling along their route. Drivers of a police van who noticed the shooting pursued the bus. The policemen shot at the wheels of the bus, causing it to halt. The area was closed off and IDF officers began negotiations with the terrorists. [passage omitted]

I must correct a report we broadcast a short while ago: No officer was killed in the attack.

Infiltrated From Egypt

TA071252 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] The security forces this morning killed three terrorists who penetrated Israel from Egypt and captured a vehicle, including a bus transporting employees to a plant in the area. During the IDF operation, three civilians were killed and three women were injured. Our correspondent Moti Amir updates us from the south:

The terrorist squad infiltrated Israeli territory from Egypt during the night. Early this morning, the terrorists ambushed vehicles moving along the Mizpe Ramon-Beersheba highway. Near Ramat Hafha, the terrorists commandeered a military Renault. They shot at it, but the soldiers in the car escaped. The terrorist squad took the vehicle and began driving it northward in the direction of Beersheba.

Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command, supervised the operation in which the terrorists were captured:

[Begin Mordekhay recording] They were driving the vehicle in the direction of Dimona, and from there toward Beersheba. On the way there the vehicle blocked the road and the terrorists threw a hand grenade at a semitrailer that was also traveling that route. After that, a bus that was driving along that road arrived there, and the terrorists fired bullets and hurled grenades at it. [end recording]

The bus, loaded with passengers, came to a halt. Most of the passengers and the driver escaped. The terrorists abandoned the Renault and got on the bus, which still had approximately seven passengers on board. A police van pursued the terrorists after the latter fired at private cars. Near 'Aro'er Junction, the policemen shot at the wheels of the bus, stopping it.

[Begin Mordekhay recording] We located the bus. The police and the IDF blocked all access roads and intersections, stopping all traffic. The bus halted around here, near 'Aro'er Junction. The first unit that arrived here was a police unit and the commander of the regional district. I arrived a bit later and took command. Once the escape routes from that place was blocked. We began organizing to carry out all the necessary operations. [end recording]

Negotiations were conducted with the terrorists. Their initial demand was that International Red Cross representatives be brought. The terrorists fired at the security forces during the negotiations and hurled a grenade, but it failed to explode. Later the terrorists shot at the hostages, killing one of the passengers.

[Begin recording] [Mordekhay] We engaged in a dialogue with the terrorists. We made every effort both to calm them down and to promise them that from their point of view the negotiations could gain results. Yet at a certain, relatively early stage, they shot at us from the bus—at first, twice. Then they shot and killed one of the hostages and also fired at the women on the bus.

[Unidentified correspondent] So you then decided to break into the bus?

[Mordekhay] When they shot and killed one of the hostages, meanwhile shooting at the women on the bus—despite our promises that we would not harm them and despite the direct contact we had with them—it was obvious that they had shot and hit one of the civilians and some women. At that moment, I decided to break into the bus. When I reached the conclusion that this was the most propitious moment, and having received the necessary approvals, at a certain point I decided to move in.

IDF and the special police antiterror units were deployed. I gave the police unit that specific mission, and the special border police unit quickly broke into the bus. Within seconds we overpowered the terrorists and took over the bus. Three terrorists were killed, and to my deep sorrow, so were three Israelis: one man and two women—all civilians.

We have not yet completed the debriefing. According to an initial report, it is certain the civilian was shot and killed by the terrorists. Apparently the people were hurt by the terrorists' fire even before we broke into the bus, but we will find that out after a careful debriefing. Only then will we be able to assess the facts accurately. Three women suffering slight injuries were removed from the bus and evacuated to the hospital. I imagine that they are already on their way home. [end recording]

Large forces arrived at the scene of the action by helicopter to evacuate the casualties. Several ambulances also came. Between the time the squad was discovered and annihilated, many traffic arteries in the south were blocked. Rumors about several terrorist squads spread in the Negev. We were the first team to go into the field and tell the Beersheba residents, who were very apprehensive and tense, something about what actually took place.

Hijackers Members of Fatah

TA071316 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The terrorists who took over the bus said they belonged to Fatah, according to Daisy Sorek of Beersheba, one of the women who was on the bus and was rescued. She said the terrorists used the bus radio communications equipment to demand that International Red Cross representatives be sent to them. She said the terrorists were dressed in civilian clothes. [passage omitted]

Bar-Lev on 'Antiterrorist Unit'

TA071307 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1156 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Interview with Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev by moderator Arye Golan and police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum—live]

[Text] [Golan] Did the special antiterrorist police unit break into the bus? Can you tell us about it?

[Bar-Lev] The unit arrived at the site shortly after the bus was cut off by various blocking measures. In accordance with its training and experience, the unit overpowered the hijackers, killed the three, and checked if the bus was booby-trapped. When it became clear that it was not, the unit's mission was completed.

[Golan] Before we continue with the conversation, I must correct something broadcast a minute ago: No officer was killed in this action. Minister Bar-Lev, this is, I believe, the first time that the border police special antiterrorist unit has been involved in such an operation.

[Bar-Lev] No, this is not the first time. Each year the unit carries our several hundred operations against underworld figures and against terrorists. This is the first time it has been involved in an attack designed for bargaining purposes, that is, when the terrorists take hostages.

[Golan] I meant that this is the first rescue operation by the antiterrorist unit.

[Bar-Lev] Yes, that is so.

[Golan] Do we now know the identities of the terrorists who were killed, to which organization they belonged, how they came here, and from where?

[Bar-Lev] No, these things are still being investigated because, as we said, the three terrorists were killed, and we will learn exactly where they came from and to which organization they belonged from eyewitnesses and from an analysis of the findings.

[Golan] Sir, our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum would like to ask you another question or two.

[Nussbaum] Sir, we have witnessed in the past 2 weeks an increase in terrorist efforts to carry out attacks. Were the police prepared for such a possibility?

[Bar-Lev] The police are prepared, and the fact is that two car bombs were defused without causing any damage. It is also a fact that the special antiterrorist unit arrived at the site quickly and carried out the operation properly. This is proof, and I hope that the various units will not have to prove themselves again. But I am sure that if such a case arises, they will do so.

Shamir on Hijacking

TA071222 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was briefed throughout the morning on the bus hijacking. He said the action was a further expression of the continuing effort by the terrorist organizations to attack Israeli citizens, killing women and civilians. The security forces dealt effectively with the situation, and the special police unit quickly overtook the bus. The prime minister added that the terrorist organizations are trying to attack us daily. Only yesterday terrorists tried to infiltrate from Lebanon. These are the same people who are inciting violence in the territories. We will not tire in the war against them, the prime minister said, concluding his announcement.

Peres Says PLO 'Disastrous'

TA071250 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] A short while ago we were able to obtain the reaction of Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres to the terrorist attack:

[Begin Peres recording] This shows precisely why the PLO is disastrous for the Arabs and the Jews alike. It is a disaster for the Arabs because in fact it prevented a Palestinian delegation from engaging in a dialogue with Secretary Shultz. What was the outcome of that? This is a terrorist body which misses every train and camel. It never gets anywhere. On the other hand, today they captured innocent men and women. What did this achieve? They angered the whole world in the ugliest fashion. The terrorists themselves paid with their lives. Where is all this leading? This is an organization that manufactures tragedies and prevents solutions. This is one of the reasons why we are so staunchly opposed to it.

Naturally, we were all concerned about the welfare of the men and women caught in this trap, but I am convinced that our IDF—and in this case also the police—can stand up to all the dangers facing us. [end recording]

Rabin Says PLO Must Be Fought

TA071401 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin a short time ago said we must be prepared to fight PLO terrorism with all our might:

[Begin Rabin recording] Unfortunately we have just witnessed an act of indiscriminate terror against civilians and women. I want to express my condolences to the families who lost their dear ones. We must be prepared for the true face of PLO terrorism and be prepared to fight it with all our might. I believe that the PLO wants to foil any chance of implementing the peace process. This is why it prevented the inhabitants of the territories from meeting Secretary Shultz. This is why it came out against the Shultz initiative and why it is exerting great effort—whether through the violence in the territories, through acts of terrorism in Lebanon which have been foiled, and through today's murderous and criminal act on the Beersheba-Dimona road—in order to foil all the chances for peace. This is the PLO's objective. [end recording]

Minister Rabin addressed juniors and seniors high school students in Qiryat Sharet in Holon. Our correspondent David Lavi brought this excerpt of his remarks.

Aide Denies Peres Involvement in Irangate

TA061307 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Mar 88 pp A 1, 2

[Report by Geneva correspondent Sari Robert and Ilan Bakhar]

[Summary] The Sunday issue of the Zurich daily BLICK carries a report on the involvement of the Swiss Secret Service in a joint U.S.-Israeli "Irangate" deal. The paper's editor, who was interviewed last night on Swiss television, claimed that the Swiss Secret Service arranged a meeting which took place on 14 March 1984 in Switzerland between Shim'on Peres, then prime minister, and an Iranian minister in charge of procurement. BLICK further claims that the meeting resulted in an agreement for the release of two Israeli and five U.S. soldiers in return for the sale cf 3,000 antitank missiles to Iran.

"Uri Savir, media adviser to Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres, termed the story published by the Swiss paper as 'nonsense.'"

Leaders Respond to U.S. Peace Initiative

Peres on Need for Acceptance

TA041948 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Yig'al Goren, following the former's talk with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz on 4 March; place not given—videorecorded]

[Text] [Peres] What does Israel need to decide on? Do we or do we not want direct negotiations that will begin with an international conference? Otherwise there will be no negotiations. There will be nothing to discuss and nobody to discuss it with. Second, does the proposed timetable seem right to us? This is an intensive timetable which enables the Middle East to extricate itself from the conflict. Third, does the order proposed—first, a discussion on an interim arrangement, and then a discussion on the permanent arrangement—seem right to us? It is to these questions that we have to respond.

[Goren] Mr Peres, what impact would a decision for early elections, by the prime minister for instance, have on the political process at its present stage?

[Peres] This would mean a stop to the political process. This is as clear as day. The political process will stop, without any chance of being renewed. If the Likud's position is accepted, there is no chance to reopen the political negotiations. There will be no partner, nor a system for the negotiations. The whole world will then point an accusing finger at Israel, and what for? We are not discussing content yet, after all. We are not arguing about whether we will or will not give up the territories. This is not on the agenda now. We do not yet have to give up Yafo, Tel Aviv, and Haifa, as the Likud says. This is all legendary. Israel need not give up any territory it needs, but must not annex 1.5 million Arabs who will destroy its Jewish character. This is what it all boils down to, in a single sentence.

I visited a Na'amat [Alignment-affiliated women's labor federation] facility yesterday and was approached by a person who asked me why I give in to the Arabs so much. I told him: Sir, I am not giving in to the Arabs. I am rather giving up the Arabs. I am giving up 1.5 million Arabs who are bound to change the face and form of the State of Israel.

[Goren] In your opinion, Sir, is there room to bring the U.S. plan to the Inner Cabinet for a vote, so that a decision will be made in the State of Israel regarding this plan?

[Peres] What a question.

[Goren] Do you intend to bring this up for a vote?

[Peres] It is not only I but also the prime minister who must bring this up for a vote. What do you mean? Will the answer to the Americans be a private Shamir response or a Likud partisan reply? Do we not know the composition of the Inner Cabinet? The Inner Cabinet is made up of the two parties, each with five members. What is this—shall we have two answers? If we cannot give an answer we will have to go to the people for a decision.

Rabin on Alignment Support

TA052034 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] At the Alignment ministers' meeting in Jerusalem this evening Minister Yitzhaq Rabin firmly demanded that the Alignment position itself on the side of the Shultz initiative. He went on to demand that, if necessary, the Alignment should force a confrontation with the Likud and hold early elections.

Inner Cabinet Session Urged

TA052114 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] The Labor Party ministers demand that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir bring the Shultz initiative to a discussion and a decision in the Inner Cabinet within a week. According to them, the Shultz plan is a basis for promoting peace because it allows for a renewal of the political process through direct negotiations without preconditions, following an opening session of an international conference which will be devoid of coercive powers. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that in a consultation of the Labor Party ministers at Peres' home most of the participants expressed their opinion that if the prime minister gives the United States a negative answer, there will be no choice but to opt for early elections.

'Key' Herut Members Reject Plan

TA052125 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] The heads of the large Herut Movement's branches have called for a Herut Central Committee meeting for a political discussion against the background of the Shultz initiative. They have also called on the movement's secretariat to activate the campaign committee.

Our correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the meeting of these leaders, with the motto of "No to the Shultz initiative" has backed Mr Shamir on his trip to Washington, but also criticized him for not having yet convened the Central Committee for a discussion of the situation. Criticism was also leveled over the fact that official Likud spokesmen have not clarified the substance of the contacts with Shultz from the point of view of the Likud. The decisions made this evening emphasized the Likud and government commitment to the Camp David and autonomy policy. It was stated that Peres' policy of concessions invites international pressure.

In this evening's meeting Deputy Minister Roni Milo said that Secretary Shultz did not present a dictate which must be accepted or rejected, but rather has presented proposals which will continue to be discussed when the prime minister arrives in Washington. Knesset Member Milo believes that Mr Shamir will not bring the Shultz plan up in the Inner Cabinet tomorrow. Deputy Minister Milo added that he has learned that Jordanian King Husayn has demanded a clear U.S. commitment that Israel withdraw from Judaea, Samaria, and the Golan before he agrees to join the political move.

Talks on Initiative Sought

TA060546 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Last night the Alignment voiced an unequivocal demand for the U.S. initiative to be brought for discussion within a week. The Alignment ministers held an unscheduled meeting in Minister Peres' residence last night. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports on that meeting from our Tel Aviv studio:

The U.S. initiative allows for the resumption of the momentum for peace and answers Israel's demand for direct negotiations without preconditions with an international opening lacking the power to force a settlement. Therefore, the prime minister should bring the issue up for a vote within a week. This was the resolution adopted last night by the Alignment ministers at Shim'on Peres' residence.

In that session, Ministers Rabin, Tzur, Ya'aqobi, Weizman, and Party Secretary Bar'am said that if the U.S. initiative is rejected, there will be no alternative but to call early elections. Some participants expressed their concern over the summer vacation hurdle. Nevertheless no one mentioned dates, realizing that in the end it would be possible to reach an agreement with the Likud over that issue with the date being set for the end of June or the beginning of July.

The meeting also consolidated the tactics to be employed this week: pressure on the prime minister to bring the Shultz paper before the Inner Cabinet for a discussion and a vote; and if Mr Shamir refuses to hold a vote on the matter, to have Shim'on Peres demand one on behalf of the other half of the Inner Cabinet.

The Alignment prefers a tie vote in the Inner Cabinet, which spells a rejection of the Shultz initiative, over the departure of the prime minister to Washington with no vote at all.

Shamir Orders No Comments

TA061116 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Mar 88 p 3

[Report by Lily Galili]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his confidants have refused to be interviewed on anything related to the Shultz plan. Over the past 2 days, the television news department has approached Shamir; Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the prime minister's office; and Knesset Member Dan Meridor, requesting their comments on the plan for the Friday or Saturday evening news programs. All the appeals were turned down in following clear instructions by Shamir.

Shamir: No Action Until Visit

TA061111 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] The Cabinet discussed the Shultz document this morning. The debate on the matter is still in progress. The prime minister said that a decision on the issue will be deferred until after his return from Washington, because he is waiting for answers and clarifications he hopes to obtain during his visit to the United States. He said this in response to Alignment ministers' demands that the Israeli position be consolidated even before he leaves.

Shamir To Present Alternative

TA061348 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Mar 88 pp A pp 1, 2

[Report by Ilan Bakhar, 'Ofra Yeshu'a-Lyth, Menahem Rahat and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Yosef Ben-Aharon, the director general of the prime minister's office, last night told MA'ARIV that "Shultz made clear that the plan he presented on Friday was not the Bible, and that he does not want a yes or no answer. Secretary Shultz said that since there are still reservations and criticism by several parties, he would like to hear what we have to say, and he wants this to be done when the prime minister is in Washington." Contrary to these remarks, authoritative sources in the Foreign Ministry said the U.S. declaration of intention was definitely written by Shultz. "I am waiting for a written reply from the government of Israel to approve the declaration of intentions, and I ask for this reply by mid-March," and somewhere the following is written: "The declaration of intention is an integral whole."

Ben-Aharon stressed that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir will make clear to the United States during his Washington stay what is acceptable to Israel in the plan, and what is not.

"We will make our own proposal, and we will present an alternative total plan, which will include a proposed timetable for negotiations and contents. It will be an operative plan," Ben-Aharon promised. He disclosed that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir accepts the principle of an immediate start to negotiations on the interim status, and the implementation of the agreement immediately afterwards.

"Israel also agrees to the need to decide on a date for the opening of talks on the final status, but we believe the date must be a long time after the interim agreement is implemented and proves itself in practice. We also accept a one-time meeting of the parties to the conflict under the auspices of the two superpowers as an opening to direct negotiations. This is an Israeli concession to King Husayn, who claims that he needs international backing." [passage omitted]

Rabin Explains Position on Plan

TA060632 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by party affairs correspondent Razi Barqay and program moderator David Grossman—live]

[Text] [Barqay] Good morning, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning.

[Barqay] Mr Rabin, why is there such eagerness to hold a vote whose results are actually known in advance? Why will you not let the prime minister receive clarifications in Washington, thereby possibly allowing you to reach some sort of agreement on the Shultz plan with the Likud?

[Rabin] The question is simple: Does Israel, does the government of Israel, want to give peace a chance—and I emphasize, a chance for peace, because entering negotiations still does not guarantee peace. Thus, the first question is: Does Israel want to launch negotiations for peace? Unlike the situation that prevailed over the last few years, Israel is currently faced with a U.S. proposal which is in essence procedural. It involves no Israeli commitment to one position versus another that would be binding upon us at the beginning of negotiations. Rather, it involves a commitment that we come and sit around the negotiating table. I believe that if Israel does not reply in the affirmative this time, certainly 12 or more months would elapse before we have a second chance to reach peace negotiations, if at all.

[Grossman] Mr Rabin, the Shultz document talks about a conference that would not disband after the opening but that would receive reports from the parties engaged in deliberations. Does this not entail a fear of pressure or coercion on Israel that would be imposed by the conference?

[Rabin] Look, the U.S. proposal indeed involves a framework of an international conference, but it is likewise stressed that the conference would not have coercive powers, and that it would not be permitted to impose a veto on agreements that would be reached between the parties through bilateral negotiations on a geographic basis. The proposal mentions a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, which is to say that the PLO will not appear as a separate body. This indicates that we are not the only ones who can dictate the terms of negotiations.

The Shultz plan is a positive proposal. If the Cabinet does not give it a positive response, the implication is clear: namely, that Israel refuses to accept a concrete and reasonable proposal to launch peace negotiations primarily along our eastern border with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation as our partner in talks.

[Barqay] But suppose the Cabinet does not endorse such a plan. Do you think the only remaining option is to hold early elections?

[Rabin] Look, at this stage I would like first of all to address the chance, the only serious chance to promote peace negotiations, or actually reach the point of peace negotiations, that has come up since the establishment of the national unity government. At this stage it would be advisable to focus on this.

[Grossman] Mr Rabin, I would like to ask you a question in your capacity as defense minister. Last Wednesday you responded to motions to the Knesset agenda on closing off the territories to the media. You expressed your firm opposition to this, saying furthermore that this would not pass any legal test. What made you change your mind and close off areas to the media?

[Rabin] Look, the original proposal was to close off all of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza permanently. I objected to this. Had you heard my speech, you would have heard me add that every military commander has the authority to close off those areas in which military activity is taking place or in areas where we fear or have intelligence that a violent disturbance may erupt. What happened on Friday and Saturday followed this scenario precisely. This was not a total or permanent closure of the area.

[Grossman] This new directive discriminates against the foreign press. Are they perceived as more dangerous, as more provocative than their Israeli counterparts?

[Rabin] The instruction can only be anchored in the law, which permits the closing off of areas, by calling them a closed military zone, to all movement except that of the IDF or other security bodies and the people residing in that area.

[Grossman] Do you have the means to close off the area to a reporter who would try to sneak in disguised as a local resident and thus take photos, perhaps winning acclaim as someone who has brought information from a closed place?

[Rabin] Look, the law stipulates very definite rules. One can always try to outsmart the law enforcers and thereby break the law. These people are subsequently handled as violators of the law.

[Grossman] Thank you very much, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and thank you also, our correspondent Razi Barqay.

Inner Cabinet Session 9 Mar

TA061421 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] The Inner Cabinet will discuss the Shultz document on Wednesday. Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Amir reports that the Inner Cabinet today held a security debate, and did not deal with the Shultz document.

Cabinet Exchanges 6 Mar

TA061442 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says that the U.S. plan has not been submitted to him as an ultimatum and that Secretary of State Shultz clearly said that changes may be introduced in the document he submitted. In today's Cabinet meeting Shamir claimed that according to the proposed international conference format the UN secretary will have to also invite the PLO representatives to the discussions.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres demanded that a decision be adopted on the Shultz document prior to Shamir's trip to the United States. The prime minister rejected the demand.

Senior sources at the prime minister's office told our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel that an appeal may be made to the police to investigate how a copy of the Shultz message reached the YEDI'OT AHARONOT paper.

Shamir To Seek 'Alterations'

TA061753 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Speech by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir before a convention of the National Religious Party at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel in Jerusalem on 6 March; in Hebrew—videorecorded]

[Text] Jordan has not yet accepted the U.S. proposals. We know that it has additional demands. Still, it welcomes the very fact of U.S. involvement.

Syria naturally does not accept any of this. Syria would indeed have liked to hold negotiations with Israel on the Golan Heights, but the Americans also understand that right now this is neither realistic nor possible. I hope that they believe this.

As for Egypt: Egypt which is not an active and important factor here welcomes this entire initiative and approach.

We, the government, will of course have to decide in the coming days on our reply to the United States. The U.S. secretary told me that what was in the letter handed to us, which was published in the press today—contrary to what he had asked for, contrary to the promise we, I, kept—is not something that cannot be changed. It is possible to change, following talks, discussions or persuasion. This is not an ultimatum that must be followed to the letter. It is not a holy cow to which we must answer yes or no.

The timetable that was set by the U.S. Administration is also not a holy matter that cannot be touched. After all, Israel is still a sovereign state. Therefore, I do not think it is incumbent on us to rush to give an answer that may be received with joy, or rather with satisfaction, by U.S. circles, but may largely endanger what we have achieved, what we want to achieve, what we should progress toward.

In the Cabinet meeting today I suggested that a discussion be held, in the Cabinet and in the Inner Cabinet. I will travel to the United States next week to hold talks on this. I will try to reach agreement on alterations which will better suit our interests, and after my return the Cabinet will meet and make a decision.

Rabin Defends Initiative

TA061810 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] It is inconceivable for Israel to respond negatively to an initiative which contains a chance for peace, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said this evening. The Labor Party demands that the prime minister decide either for or against the initiative before he leaves for the United States, the defense minister said. Razi Barqay reports from Labor Party headquarters:

Yitzhaq Rabin is unequivocal when defending the Shultz initiative, and when he attacks some tendencies within the Labor Party to surrender totally because of what is happening in the territories.

If we leave with our tail between our legs, as some here suggest, it will be a field day for violence. We will pay a price not only in Nabulus and Ramallah, but also in Nazareth.

He called on the doves in the young guard to stop being naive. But most of his remarks were devoted to his call to Yitzhaq Shamir not to waste a historic opportunity, not to depend on possible negative replies by Husayn and Al-Asad.

[Begin Rabin recording] I would like, for my own conscience as an Israeli citizen, as a Cabinet minister, and as defense minister to say that when the chance for beginning negotiations was presented, we said yes. This is not conditional on whether others say yes or no. I want it known internationally and nationally—first internationally and then nationally—that when the opportunity was created, with the assistance of the United States—which initiated it, and presented us with a memorandum of understanding—we responded positively to the chance for peace.

It is inconceivable that the prime minister will go the United States without a Cabinet decision. A Cabinet stand must be taken after a debate and a decision. There will have to be a debate in the Inner Cabinet, and we will insist that the debate conclude with a decision, either positive or negative. [end recording]

This is not the right time to deal with minor politics, with the question of whether to hold elections now or in November, Rabin said. The questions facing us are not questions of party tactics, but questions which touch on our very existence, he said.

Rabin was asked what the Labor Party's position would be when and if Shamir responds negatively to the Americans. Would Labor then have to leave the Cabinet, and hold general elections? We'll cross that bridge when we come to it, Rabin said.

Further Shamir Comments

TA062004 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says he will leave for the United States with an Israeli peace plan and not just criticism of the U.S. plan. Speaking before the National Religious Party's Executive Committee this evening, the prime minister said he sees the U.S. plan as only a basis for changes and modifications.

[Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew at 1930 GMT on 6 March cites Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, as saying that "Yitzhaq Shamir did not at all claim that the entire U.S. plan is a basis for change, as was broadcast earlier, but that the government was handed a paper into which changes can be introduced"].

Our party affairs correspondent Hanan 'Azran cites some of the prime minister's remarks.

[Begin videorecording] ['Azran] The prime minister has broken the silence he had imposed on himself. The U.S. Administration, the prime minister says, under pressure of events in the territories and public opinion, has changed its opinion surprisingly. According to the Shultz plan it will now not be possible not to invite the PLO to an international conference. Even if such a conference is unable to impose its will on the parties concerned, it will still be able to adopt decisions which will be binding on Israel afterward, contrary to its will.

Later, the prime minister added, the original Camp David formulations were emptied of their content to make them acceptable to Jordan, and Israel cannot now afford to have all these changes. If, in addition, the principle of an interim arrangement is dropped, we will be heading toward a deep breach and a grounding of the talks, the prime minister said. The trip to the United States is tantamount to a continuation of the talks, with the goal of bringing about a change in direction.

[Shamir] [passage omitted] I do not believe we will be able to reach any real, fruitful political negotiations without restoring full security in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el [applause]. This, let me repeat, is the most important task facing us at the moment. This is understood by our U.S. friends. If we succeed in this, then all political discussions and arguments will be much easier, and we, I hope, will emerge from this matter safely, in every sense of the word. [end recording]

Peres 'Sharply' Attacks Likud

TA062110 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Minister Shim'on Peres believes the Alignment will not be able to reach an agreement with the Likud in the political sphere due to the unyielding positions of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir who is opposed to an international conference. In a meeting of his party activists in Bene Beraq, Mr Peres sharply attacked the Likud. Our correspondent Yosi Rivlin reports that Minister Peres warned that if we do not adopt Mr Shultz's plan, the Americans will turn their back on us and will not resume the role of mediation in the peace process in the region for the next 1 and 1/2 years.

Accused Spy Kalmanovich Pleads Not Guilty

TA070905 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Businessman Shabtay Kalmanovich this morning pleaded not guilty to charges of espionage and grave espionage for the Soviet Union. His trial opened a short while ago with charges being filed. The debate was held behind closed doors, and the only report on the proceedings was that Kalmanovich pleaded not guilty. This report was filed by our correspondent Yamin Qeyni.

3 'Terrorists' Killed in Attack on SLA Position

TA061848 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Mar 88

(Text) In south Lebanon three terrorists were killed this morning as they attacked an SLA [Southern Lebanese Army] position on the border of the security zone. About 30 Hizballah men stormed the position near the town of Bint Jubayl. SLA soldiers opened fire and repulsed the attack. No SLA men were injured.

UNIFIL Accuses SLA of Intentional Firing

TA051028 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] UNIFIL headquarters has accused the South Lebanese Army [SLA] of intentionally firing at UNIFIL positions. UNIFIL people are saying that over the last month SLA soldiers fired more than 100 times at UNIFIL positions, with the firing not stopping even after UNIFIL soldiers fired warning flares. The commander of the Irish battalion said that on several occasions he ordered his soldiers to return fire. Our correspondent

Hayim Hecht was told by SLA headquarters that shots were fired only when terrorists hid behind UN positions and attacked positions in the security zone from there.

3 'Terrorists' Killed in Clash With IDF 5 Mar

TA061933 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Three terrorists were killed last night in a clash with an IDF force in the security zone in southern Lebanon. Our forces sustained no casualties.

As far as one could tell, the terrorists were on their way to perpetrate a terrorist act within Israel. Before midnight last night an IDF patrol detected a terrorist squad near the village of 'Aytarun, north of [Israel's northern] settlements of Malkiyya and Avivim. The patrol opened fire, killing one terrorist.

The IDF force launched a pursuit and early this morning it encountered two additional terrorists who were killed in the course of a short fight which ensued. The terrorists were found in possession of Kalashnikov rifles, hand grenades, and explosives. According to the equipment in its possession it seems that the squad was on its way to perpetrate a terrorist act in Israeli territory. [passage omitted]

5 Wounded by Katyushas Landing in Galilee 5 Mar

TA060528 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Five Galilee residents suffered slight injuries last night when several Katyusha rockets landed in the area. This is reported by our correspondent Hayim Hecht. The 122-mm missiles penetrated a residential home.

Golan Druze Granted Permission To Visit Syria

TA051440 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] This coming week the Israeli authorities will allow a group of Golan Druze to leave for Syria to visit relatives for the first time since the 6-Day War. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that this visit was supposed to have taken place 3 weeks ago, but it was postponed because of the riots on the Golan.

Sharon Criticizes Incompetence in Territories

TA071348 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Minister Sharon today accused the defense establishment of failing to control events in the territories. He added that one person in the Labor Party is cynically taking advantage of this failure of his fellow party and Cabinet members. Our correspondent Gabi Zohar has spoken with Minister Ari'el Sharon who was the guest of the Kibbutz Bet Hashita works today.

[Begin recording] [Zohar] There is no need to rush to embrace every proposal submitted to Israel, said Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon, referring to the Shultz initiative. The main problem, however, as far as Sharon is concerned, is not the political process, but rather the upgrading of security and the restoration of calm to the territories.

[Sharon] First of all, I wish to state unequivocally that it is possible to restore calm and order, stop the disturbances and riots in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and what is more urgent and vital—stop the raging of the Israeli Arabs, which we can see is no longer an aberration or a chance occurrence. We are now dealing with dozens of instances, and the phenomenon is on the rise.

A concentrated effort should also be made to increase our war against terrorist organizations. Over the past 2 years, I have submitted a series of proposals on this subject to the Inner Cabinet, most of which have not been adopted, to my regret.

[Zohar] Why? What is the reason for this?

[Sharon] We live in a democratic state, with a coalition government, which is certainly a democratic one. Decisions there are made by a majority vote against the minority. So far, I have been unable to get the things I believed in to be approved by the Cabinet. But they will be adopted in the end. I know they will. That will happen after we pay a very high price. This is the first thing, and it is more important just now than the arguments, the irresponsible declarations saying that the solution lies solely in political settlements.

The longer the Israeli political leaders repeat the fallacy that calm, victory over terrorism, and the prevention of riots are connected with the political process, the longer the riots will continue. I would say this is a very grave mistake. On the one hand, there is the lack of success in exterminating terrorism, lack of success in stopping the riots, and lack of success in ending the unrest. This, I would say, is the jurisdiction of one part of the Cabinet which is in charge of this issue, but has had no success with it.

[Zohar] Are you referring to the defense minister?

[Sharon] I do not deal with names here. There is this system which is in charge of security. I regret to say that it has not been successful—and I do not want to use the harsher expression failed—in the recent months. It has not had any success. I am convinced that great efforts are being made. I am well aware of the fact that the soldiers and commanders are putting everything they have into it. The bottom line, though, is the fact is that all these efforts have so far been in vain. The riots are escalating and terrorism is on the rise and becoming alarming. This is one component of the Labor Party's part in the Cabinet.

It is interesting to note that its other component is making a cynical use of the first, to sow confusion, scare the public, and exert pressure on the prime minister who is now in a very difficult situation. When you are confronted with proposals which can harm Israel, and you take advantage of that same lack of success in the security sphere—which is undoubtedly and indisputably a lack of success—to claim that if we do not rush to accept the recent U.S. plan unconditionally the situation is bound to deteriorate, this to me is a cynical remark made by one person on the lack of success of another. [end recording]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

Al-Quds Radio Resignation Call

TA071025 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Mar 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Ori Nir]

[Text] A pamphlet currently being circulated throughout large areas of the West Bank, inspired by "Call No 9" issued by the Unified National Command of the Uprising, sets short timetables for the resignation of members of the Israeli-appointed municipal councils, tax collectors and customs officials on behalf of the Civilian Administration, and Arab policemen in the territories.

The pamphlet is signed by a new body calling itself The General Command of the Striking Groups [Hamifqada Hakelalit Shel Qevutzot Hamahatz]. Palestinian activists in the territories have described that body as a kind of "operational branch of the command of the uprising."

The pamphlet announces that its distributors plan to implement the resolutions of the Unified National Command of the Uprising regarding the resignation of Civilian Administration workers, Arab policemen, and members of the appointed municipal councils. The publication and distribution of this pamphlet has added fuel to the fire of the public debate currently raging in the territories around this subject.

Many, including people who are viewed as avid supporters of the Palestinian organizations, maintain that there is no point or justification in demanding the resignation of Civilian Administration employees and Palestinian policemen, because they hold valuable jobs that are important for the public good on the one hand and yet do not essentially conflict with the uprising in the territories. The argument also revolves around the appointed councils, because these are bodies that are completely apolitical in nature. As for those who are termed "collaborators" with the authorities, it seems there is no argument inside the Palestinian community regarding the need to force them to cease their activity.

The Qabatiyah lynching of a "collaborator" serves as an inspiration and model for further intimidation in the territories.

The new pamphlet urges all the appointed local and regional councils in the territories to contact news agency offices within 3 days and announce their resignation. "If you fail to take action, the striking groups will," the pamphlet reads. The Civilian Administration employees in the tax and customs bureaus and the Arab policemen serving in the territories are called upon to resign within a week. "Striking groups everywhere will scrupulously see to it that this mission is fully accomplished," the pamphlet reads.

The pamphlet also calls upon all the inhabitants of the territories to refrain from paying taxes and customs duties "which flow into the conquerors' coffers, providing the wherewithal for the procurement of means to oppress our brethren."

The time limits stipulated in the pamphlet will expire in the next few days, as the first issues were already distributed last Thursday and Friday.

The Civilian Administration has reported in reaction that so far none of the Arab employees (there are approximately 17,000 of them in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza) have announced their resignation, and that not even a single appointed municipal council has announced its dissolution.

Gaza Tax Collectors Resign

TA070725 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 7 Mar 88 p 1

[Report by Bradley Burston]

[Text] Gaza city—In a step that may constitute the opening of a new phase in resistance to Israeli rule in the territories, the Arab employees of the Gaza Civil Administration Income and Property Tax division late yesterday decided to resign en masse, THE JERUSALEM POST has learned.

Shmu'el Goren, the coordinator of activities in the territories, last night insisted that the civil administration was still functioning.

In an afternoon meeting, 38 of the department's 40 local employees signed the resignation letter, which is to take effect this morning. The remaining two employees were unable to attend the meeting, apparently due to curfew restrictions, but have expressed support for the action.

According to local sources, the move came in response to recent calls by PLO and Islamic fundamentalist factions. Rumours concerning the resignation spread the length of the Strip within hours.

Yesterday evening, representatives of the workers met with Civil Administration officials and sumbitted the letter of resignation.

Following the meeting, the workers told THE POST that their decision was final, and could not be changed by either promises of rewards or by threat of arrest.

The Civil Administration last night declined to comment directly on the move, stating that it had "no information at this time," and promising to reply to reporters' queries this morning.

The resignation effectively paralyses the tax division, which, according to recent estimates, annually collects tax revenue fron Gaza residents that exceeds the total amount spent by the Israeli Government on development of the region.

"The Civil Administration has no one to replace us," one of the workers said last night. "The tax division is the most hated department in Gaza. Even the army officers who run the Civil Administration are scared to go into Gaza to try to collect taxes."

During widespread unrest yesteraday, an off-duty Arab policeman was struck by an errant rubber bullet as IDF troops dispersed a rock-throwing crowd here.

The policeman, 'Abdal-Majid Isma'il, 41, was taken to Al-Shifa' Hospital for treatment.

Violent clashes bertween demonstrators and troops broke out in the morning in the Al-Shati' refugee camp on the Gaza coast. After the disturbances were brought under control, a curfew was clamped on the area.

Curfews remain in effect in Dayr al-Balah and al-Burayj, following weekend unrest.

Late yesterday, IDF soldiers burst into Al-Shifa' Hospital, arresting a patient and two visitors. Following the incident, a large crowd of youths gathered at the hospital entrance, vowing to block further attempts to make arrests on hospital premises.

Al-Zahiriyah Death Investigated

TA051616 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] The body of a resident of Al-Zahiriyah who was killed by a bullet was brought to the Al-Maqasid Hospital in East Jerusalem at noon today. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of his death. A military source told our correspondent Moti Amir that disturbances have taken place in Al-Zahiriyah since the morning hours. Stones were thrown at IDF soldiers. One soldier was slightly injured. He was treated at the Soroka medical center in Beersheba and released. There were disturbances also in Abu Dis near Bethlehem.

2 Killed, 58 Detained 5 Mar

TA052044 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Following is a summary of the riots in the territories today: Two people were killed and three were wounded in the village of Al-Zahiriyah in the course of riots which took place beginning early this morning. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that a curfew was imposed on the village.

Two rioters were wounded in Khan Yunus in the Gaza Strip. Riots and disturbances also took place in Abu Dis east of Bethlehem, in the Al-Am'ari refugee refugee camp in Ramallah, near Janin, and in Rafah in the Gaza Strip.

In the course of the day about 58 residents of the territories were detained. In addition to Al-Zahiriyah, also subject to curfew are the villages of Al-'Arrub, Al-Khidr, Bani Na'im, Al-Burayj, and Dayr al-Balah. A blockade was imposed on several other villages. The IDF forces closed off extensive areas in the territories to media coverage.

Arab Dies of Wounds 4 Mar

TA060536 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] An Arab from Al-Burayj in the Gaza Strip has died of the wounds he sustained in disturbances on Friday. The youth tried to attack an army officer following prayers, and was wounded along with another Arab when the officer fired in return. The other wounded protester remains in Tel Hashomer Hospital.

3 Sammu' Residents Wounded

TA061010 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Three residents of Sammu', on the southern slopes of the Hebron Hills, sustained slight leg wounds from shots fired by an IDF officer during a riot. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that residents of Sammu' tried to block a highway, rioted, and threw stones at IDF soldiers. Dozens of them attacked soldiers with bottles and metal objects. The soldiers first fired tear gas and rubber bullets, but when the rioting continued their commander fired at the rioters' feet. As we said, three people were wounded.

Shots Fired at IDF in 'Askar

TA061342 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] A resident of the 'Askar refugee camp was killed today by IDF soldiers' fire. During a violent riot at the camp, shots were fired at the IDF soldiers and two people were seen escaping. The soldiers fired toward them. One of them was wounded and later died of his wounds.

'Askar Resident Shot in Head

TA061135 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A curfew was imposed this morning on the Samaria village of Biddiya following disturbances. The curfews on the Bani Na'im and Al-'Arrub refugee camps remain in force.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 6 March reports that "Security forces made dozens of arrests in Biddiya" and adds that "Just a few minutes ago a resident of the 'Askar refugee camp was brought to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. His name is Khalid al-'Awda, and he was said to have been shot in the head during a violent disturbance in 'Askar this morning. The army spokesman could provide no details."]

1 Dead, 1 Wounded Near Ramallah

TA061820 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] One dead person and one wounded casualty were brought to a Ramallah hospital this evening. They are residents of the village of Al-Mazra'ah al-Sharqiya near Ramallah. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of the incident.

IDF Demolishes Lynchers' Homes

TA070606 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Last night IDF forces blew up the homes of two more Qabatiyah residents who had been directly involved in the lynching of a local and in setting his house on fire. Our correspondent Moti Amir notes that on the day following the Qabatiyah lynching the IDF demolished the houses of two other residents who took part in the murder.

1 Soldier, 7 Arabs Wounded

TA070901 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] A hand grenade was thrown early this morning at IDF soldiers who were making arrests in the village of Idnah, southwest of Hebron. One soldier was slightly wounded. Our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat brings more details:

As part of the initiated activity launched by the IDF early this morning, large troops entered the village of Idnah with the intention of making arrests. The villagers anticipated the soldiers' arrival, and met the troops with a dense barrage of stones. Some residents encircled a border police jeep. Suddenly a grenade was hurled at the soldiers, slightly injuring one of them. The unit then opened fire in the direction of those who threw the grenade, wounding seven villagers, one of them seriously.

All the roads in Idnah were blocked, and bulldozers were used to reopen them for the troops. The soldiers later moved from house to house, arresting residents suspected of participating in the numerous instances of rioting which occurred in the village over the past few days, which included the burning of an IDF vehicle and a bus and attacks on IDF soldiers who were making arrests.

AL-NAHAR Offices Set Afire

TA071020 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Mar 88 p 2

[Report by the correspondent in the territories]

[Text] Unidentified people yesterday set fire to the AL-NAHAR offices in Tulkarm. Sources in the city have reported that early in the morning, unidentified individuals broke the gate, poured incendiary material, and set the place on fire. The entire office went up in flames. This report was confirmed by the AL-NAHAR editors in East Jerusalem.

AL-NAHAR has been published for over 2 years as an East Jerusalem paper that advocates a distinct pro-Jordanian line. Since its very first appearance, it has been subject to vicious attacks from extremist elements in the territories that oppose Jordanian rule.

The newspaper's editors are identified with the body known as "the Jordanian-Palestinian alignment," which unites all of Jordan's supporters in the territories.

Burial Suspects Appeal Remand

TA071126 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] The two soldiers suspected of trying to bury alive four Arab residents of Kafr Salim have appealed the decision to keep them in remand until the end of their trial. The soldiers say the decision is discriminatory, noting that soldiers accused of beating two Palestinians near Nabulus have been released on bail.

Higgins 'No Longer' in South, Said in Beirut

NC061810 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Quoting reliable security sources, the AKHBAR LUBNAN NEWS AGENCY reports that U.S. officer William Richard Higgins is no longer in the South. The agency notes that his kidnappers may have been able to move him to Beirut. The sources believe there is a connection between this information and the easing of the security measures which the Amal Movement introduced in the South during the search for the kidnapped officer.

Rescue Attempt 'Cancelled'

NC061220 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Citing what it describes as well-informed sources, the Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD newspaper has reported that at the 11th hour the U.S. Administration cancelled a collaborative military operation with the Israeli army in Tyre on the night of 27 February. The objective of the operation was to rescue kidnapped U.S. serviceman William Higgins. The paper says that the operation called off when news about it leaked just before it was to begin.

UNIFIL Movements Restricted; Escorts Required

NC050922 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] UNIFIL Commander General Gustav Haeggland has declared that strict instructions have been given to UNIFIL members to ensure that there will be no more kidnappings. He said that Tyre and its district north of Al-Naqurah are now out of bounds for UNIFIL soldiers. He added that even inside the so-called security belt zone, they must now be escorted by an armored car equipped with a heavy machinegun and a military jeep.

Further on Kidnapping of Oxfam Officials

Abducted in 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp

NC041939 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Reliable eyewitnesses told AFP today that the two officials of an international humanitarian organization, British national Peter Coleridge and Syrian national 'Umar al-Tarabulsi, who disappeared in southern Lebanon yesterday, were abducted by gunmen while in the 'Ayn al- Hulwah camp. These eyewitnesses said that Coleridge, who is director of the Oxfam organization in the Middle East and Al-Tarabulsi, who is the organization's director in Lebanon, were detained in the southern quarter of the camp while Coleridge was taking photographs.

'May Be Released' Soon

NC042130 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] In Sidon, Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization, has stated that the two Oxfam officials who disappeared in southern Lebanon are being detained by a Palestinian group. He added that they may be released within hours. Sa'd told REUTER that Palestinian gunmen detained British national Peter Coleridge and Syrian 'Umar al-Tarabulsi in order to interrogate them. This happened after Coleridge took photographs in 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp.

Stopped for 'Interrogation'

NC050641 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Excerpts] There was a new development yesterday in the issue of the foreign hostages being held in Lebanon. Briton Peter Coleridge, director of the Oxfam Famine and Relief Organization in the Middle East, joined the list of hostages. He was kidnapped the day before yesterday in the Sidon area. No one has of yet claimed responsibility for the abduction. [passage omitted]

Security sources in Sidon have told REUTER that Mustafa Sa'd, secretary general of the Nasirite Popular Organization, was informed about the disappearance of Coleridge and his compansion, Al-Tarabulsi. Contacts are under way to determine their location, according to the same sources.

In an interview with a local radio last night, Engineer Sa'd said according to investigations Coleridge visited the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in 1982 and took photographs of the camp's southern quarter, which was badly damaged at the time. Sa'd added that when the Oxfam official and his companion, Al-Tarabulsi, arrived in Sidon 2 days ago, he stopped at the same quarter. After noticing some changes in the area, he once again took photographs.

In the meantime, Sa'd added, some Palestinian gunmen in the camp stopped them for interrogation. He stressed that they will be released within a few hours.

Sa'd Asks Foreigners To Leave

NC051208 Paris AFP in English 1203 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Sidon, Lebanon, March 5 (AFP)—Sunni Moslem leader Mustafa Sa'd has asked all foreigners living in Lebanon to leave because "abductions are a flourishing business" in the country.

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Sa'd, who heads the Nasirite People's Organization and its militia in control of this southern port city, said "Western as well as East bloc citizens" should leave, "for neither the government, nor the Lebanese parties, nor the Palestinian people are capable of protecting them."

His statement came two days after British charity worker Peter Coleridge and Syrian colleague 'Umar al-Tarabulsi were abducted by armed men in 'Ayn al-Hulwah, the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon with a population of 80,000.

Mr. Sa'd refused to refer to the men's disappearance [as] an abduction, saying rather that it was a "blunder."

A "Palestinian party" he would not identify was questioning the two, he said, adding that it was "up to the Palestinian people to unmask" those who hold Mr. Coleridge and Mr. al-Tarabulsi.

Mr. Coleridge is the Middle East director of the international charity Oxfam, while Mr. al-Tarabulsi is the agency's director in Lebanon. Oxfam provides social and medical assistance in all parts of Lebanon.

The militia leader also threatened to take "harsh measures" against those who arrested Mr. Coleridge and Mr. al-Tarabulsi if they were not released "within the next few hours. He said he had contacted several Palestinian organizations over their disappearance.

Two Scandinavian relief workers had been abducted on February 5 near the post of Sidon but were released Tuesday.

'Act of Excessiveness'

NC051246 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1220 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] In Sidon, Nasirite Popular Organization leader Mustafa Sa'd has called on all foreigners living in Lebanon to leave as this would ensure their safety because neither the people, the state, the parties in Lebanon, nor the Palestinian people, are capable of protecting them.

Sa'd refused to consider the disappearance of the Oxfam workers—Briton Coleridge and Syrian al-Tarabulsi—as an abduction. He described the issue as an act of excessiveness. Sa'd said that a Palestinian group, which he did not name, is interrogating them.

Al-Jumayyil 'Knows' Location of French Hostages

NC050655 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil has declared that he knows where the French hostages are being held in Lebanon, but that he is afraid for their saftey. In an interview with French television, which will be broadcast today, the president did not clarifiy these two points. He expressed his hope that a solution, if not complete then at least partial, would be found to this crisis.

FRG's Schray Returns to Beirut From Damascus

NC051126 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1050 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Relatives of West German national Ralph Schray, who was freed 2 days ago after having been held by his kidnappers for more than 1 month, were quoted as saying that Schray has returned to Beirut from Damascus.

UN Relief Program Delayed by Kidnappings

NC061258 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] (Ralph Selmans), director of the UN Development Program in Lebanon, has said that plans to send a new foreign representative to Lebanon to work for the program were shelved because of the recent kidnappings of employees of international agencies in the country. (Selmans) said that the kidnapping of UNRWA officials Stening and Jorgensen may delay an $85-million relief program that was approved by the United Nations in October.

U.S. State Department Official Arrives 6 Mar

Meets With Al-Huss, Al-Husayni

NC061225 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] April Glaspie, official in charge of the Lebanese, Syrian, and Jordanian desks at the U.S. State Department, met with ranking Lebanese officials today. This visit comes within the framework of the U.S. Administration's exchanges with the Lebanese leaders. Mrs Glaspie arrived in Beirut this morning, and visited Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss at 1100. U.S. Ambassador John Kelly and the embassy's top adviser also attended the meeting, which concluded at 1245. None of the members of the U.S. delegation made any statements afterwards

At 1300, Chamber Speaker Husayn al-Husayni received Mrs Glaspie and her accompanying delegation. The two sides reviewed the Lebanese situation and the projected U.S. ideas which aim to resolve the situation in the Middle East region.

Meets Al-Jumayyil, Departs

NC062122 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Mrs Glaspie, the official in charge of the Lebanese, Syrian, and Jordanian desks at the U.S. State Department, left Beirut after meeting with President Amin al-Jumayyil at the presidential palace in Bikfayya at 1500 this afternoon. Presidential Adviser and Foreign Minister Elie Salim, U.S. Ambassador John Kelly, and U.S. Charge d'Affaires (Sampson) attended the meeting, which lasted until 1730 at which time Mrs Glaspie left without making a statement.

Junblatt Discusses Shultz Tour, Reforms
NC062205 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Excerpt] PSP leader Walid Junblatt believes there is no justification for a dialogue with [President] Amin al-Jumayyil. Such a dialogue, he said, will only serve to prop up the Lebanese isolationists, the Phalangist Party, and specifically the Al-Jumayyil clan. It will also serve to absolve them of the crimes they have committed against the Lebanese people and Arabism.

Answering a question on Al-Jumayyil's working paper and his response to this paper, Junblatt said: We were invited to Damascus and asked to give our opinion. For the thousandth time, we gave our opinion on our concept of the so-called reform. However, let us face matters frankly and bravely. It is impossible to effect political reform and consolidate Arabism in Lebanon in cooperation with the isolationists.

He added: If some think that it is possible to agree on reforms with the Phalangists and to consolidate Arabism and Lebanon's unity through cooperation with them, let them try. We have been trying for over 13 years and have yet to succeeded. If they want to try, we have no objection. We have merely stated our opinion for the record.

Regarding Shultz' tour of the region, Junblatt said: He is welcome, but what can he do? He has promised us another 17 May Accord [reference to Lebanese-Israeli agreement of 17 May 1983] and nothing else. Regrettably, Lebanon between Robert Murphy in 1952 and Dick Murphy in 1988 seems to have been governed by a U.S. settlement at the expense of the national and Arab line. Civil wars have occurred between the two settlements. We hope that this proposed settlement, if it takes place, will bring an end to all sadness. I doubt this, however. This is our destiny.

It is time for the Lebanese people to rise, to make their decisions independently, to adopt Arab, democratic, secular reform, and to get rid of foreign experts and employees. [passage omitted]

Paqraduni Views Shultz Tour, Syrian Intentions
NC050704 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Report by correspondent Vivienne Daghir on lecture given by Karim Paqraduni, deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces, entitled "Lebanon in 1988: What Future?," at a 4 March meeting at (Mon La Salle) Institute—recorded]

[Excerpts] We believe that any dialogue with Syria must begin with one basic issue; that is, withdrawal from Lebanon. We are not a party to the ongoing negotiations between Washington and Damascus, nor do we want to be. This remark was made by Attorney Karim Paqraduni in response to a reporter's question during a lecture he delivered at the (Mon la Salle) Institute. In his lecture, he discussed the economic and social crises Lebanon has encountered during three phases since 1943. He affirmed that 1987 was the worst year Lebanon has experienced, with inflation exceeding 600 percent. [passage omitted]

[Begin Paqraduni recording] The U.S.-Syrian contacts are only maneuvers made by each party to deceive the other. The United States has no solution for Lebanon or for the region. Syria does not want a solution to the Lebanese crisis or the region. Thus, the contacts will continue but without results. They are each seeking a role but not a solution. In my opinion, the closer we draw to the date of the presidential elections, the more Murphy will visit the region. The more the West Bank problems esclate, the more frequently Shultz will visit the region. Since we are discussing economy, we can say that the United States is like a bank: It lends an umbrella in the summer and takes it back in the winter.

Shultz is not coming for the sake of Lebanon or Syria. The Reagan administration is coming for its own sake; it is coming for U.S. reasons. They need to make international moves so that the Republican candidates will gain support in the elections. There is a Jewish lobby applying pressure for some action, and they hope that by making such a move they will win Arab votes in the United States. For this reason, when Shultz mentions Lebanon he thinks about Syria and the hostages, and when he talks with Syria, he thinks about Israel, Jordan, and the PLO.

Shultz is not coming to give Syria anything, neither in Lebanon nor in the region. On the one hand, he is coming to restore the U.S. role in Lebanon on the occasion of the elections; on the other hand, he wants to restore the U.S. role in the region because of the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza. This is my view of the United States.

Regarding Syria, it is like a saw: It cuts deeper both ways. For this reason, Syria wants to talk to the United States, but only in order to magnify its own role in the region and not the U.S. role in Lebanon. To begin with, Syria does not want to find a solution in Lebanon before a solution is found for the region and the Golan Heights. Syria does not want to reach a solution with the Americans in Lebanon, nor does it want a solution with Amin al-Jumayyil either. It wants a unilateral Syrian solution.

Consequently, the Syrian regime continues to reiterate that it has no confidence in the Lebanese regime. For this reason, I expect that Syria will not change its basic stand; that is, it will continue to boycott the Lebanese Government and prevent the formation of another. In order to expand its maneuverability, Syria pretends to demonstrate flexibility. It tried to show its acceptence of the principle of dialogue with the Lebanese Government, but then requested its allies in Lebanon to reject the substance of this dialogue. [end recording]

Concluding his statement, Paqraduni said that while the picture is gloomy, the horizon is not closed. He said that the whole Middle East is committed to an international conference for peace. September 1988, will bring the election of a new president and a new government. Then Lebanon will have a political system that is more stable. All foreign armies must withdraw, because a solution begins with their withdrawal and ends with a decentralized government.

Fadlallah: U.S. Provoked Iraq To Strike Cities

LD050707 Tehran IRNA in English 0655 GMT 5 Mar 88

["Fadlallah: Saddam Provoked by U.S. To Hit Iranian Cities"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Beirut, March 5, IRNA—Prominent Lebanese alim and leader of Friday congregational prayers at Imam Reza (AS) Mosque here Al-'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said here Friday that the U.S. and other big powers have provoked Saddam Husayn to increase its criminal acts against Iranian Muslims in their fight against Islamic ideology.

He said the superpowers on the one hand profess their commitment to peace and human rights and on their other hand provide destructive weapons to a 'a mad man' who is fond of shedding blood, said the prominent alim to a group of worshippers at the Mosque.

The Muslim alim stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran did not initiate the war of cities and that it considers the battle fronts as an arena to fight the Iraqi Baathist Regime. He said following the defeat of U.S. gunboat policy in the Persian Gulf and the escalation of the uprising of Muslim Palestinians 'the bloodthirsty rulers of Iraq who are in a deadlock have declared their solidarity with the world arrogance by increasing their attacks on Iranian cities and civilian areas.'

Meanwhile, leader of Islamic Tawhid movement Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban in Friday prayers sermons in Tripoli, northern Lebanon, said that the increase in Baghdad's attacks on residential areas of Iran reflects the insanity of the world arrogance which looks for new tricks to prevent the Islamic Republic of Iran from pursuing its rightful course.

Shaykh Sha'ban noted that the occurrence of the visit to the Middle East by Shultz and the missile attacks and the Geneva talks on Afghanistan is not coincidential and that the timing of the three developments indicates the superpowers' conviction that the Islamic Revolution of Iran and Iranian Muslims are the sole impediment to their colonialistic aims in the region.

He said while the imperialist powers claim to be supporters of peace their mercenaries commit [the] most horrible crimes in the name of humanity and support for the very people whom they have been oppressing.

Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban lauded the Palestinians for their uprising which he said has foiled the schemes of the colonial powers and world arrogance, and called on all Muslim nations to fight 'the remaining lackeys of colonial powers in the region and put an end to the shameful existence of the rulers in the occupied Palestine.'

Al-Jumayyil Favors Holding International Forum

AU051457 Paris AFP in English 1446 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Paris, March 5 (AFP)—Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil has said the Palestinian issue should be settled at an international forum, international conference to settle the Palestinian issue, in an interview with the privately-owned French television Canal Plus aired on Saturday.

"I am solidly behind the (Palestinian) people, first of all on a human level, as a human being and as an Arab," Mr. al-Jumayyil said.

Due to a "completely bogged down" situation in which "extremisms prevail" an agreement reached at a Middle East conference or in any other international forum would be a solution, he added.

Mr. al-Jumayyil reaffirmed that "Israel is entitled to live within recognized borders, and the Palestinian people in their homeland."

Al-Hashim Interviewed on Regional Situation

NC040725 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] National Defense and Agricultural Minister Joseph al-Hashim has stated that he believes a solution to the Lebanese issue is linked to the regional situation and to the offers made within the region, rather than to President al-Jumayyil's person or term. In an interview to be published by the newspaper AL-BAYRAQ tomorrow, Al-Hashim added: The war goes against Lebanon's democratic and geographic status and its democratic system, with the subsequent aim of encompassing the wider Arab scene, beginning with the Lebanese streets' war.

Al-Hashim added: What is happening in Lebanon and the region is an implementation of a scheme worked out by Kissinger and Israel. He noted that some Arab countries have been dragged into this scheme. Al-Hashim further noted that the restructing of the region cannot be carried out without first dismantling Lebanese society. He added: They brought a fleet to transport the Christians to Canada in order to resolve the Middle East crisis. Today the conspiracy is striking at the Lebanese sects from within in order to prevent the attainment of a reconciliation, an agreement, or a solution.

Minister al-Hashim pointed out that the attempt to assassinate President al-Jumayyil was designed to bring down the last stronghold of legitimacy in order to tighten the grasp on land and authority. He asserted that a local and regional party were involved in the attempt on President al-Jumayyil's life. He said Al-Jumayyil was the one who aborted the 17 May accord, not the opposition. He said that Al-Jumayyil also saved Lebanon from the danger of the tripartite agreement.

Shams al-Din Rejects Al-Jumayyil Reform Plan

NC042051 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council, has rejected President al-Jumayyil's reform proposals. He said that these proposals do not meet the least of [the Shi'ites'] demands, and are tantamount to a formula that only reproduces the reactionary sectarian system with some cosmetic changes.

Shi'ite Leaders Note Inter-Amal Differences

NC040855 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Disintegration within the Amal Movement is continuing. Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan has admitted the existence of difficulties within the Amal Movement, noting that there are contacts underway to hold a general conference to decide on the internal situation.

Meanwhile, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement Husayn al-Musawi has asked why faithful people are being ousted from the movement? He wonmdered if some people consider allegiance to the Islamic revolution a breach?

Amal cadres opposed to Birri in Al-Biqa' have asked Shaykh Shams al-Din to intervene immediately to thwart conspiracies against the Shi'ite sect that seek to drain the Amal Movement of faithful mujahidin, according to the statement issued by anti-Birri Amal Movement cadres. The statement declared absolute loyalty to Khomeyni, and rejected the dismissal of Al-Dirani and Haydar from their responsibilities.

In the meantime, Amal's faithful resistance has stressed that no one has the right to speak on behalf of Imam Musa al-Sadr's policy, including key figures, mukhtars, and bodies, except those who follow his policy.

The Jabal 'Amil ulema authority has condemned the searching of the ulema and the insults to their dignity at roadblocks, expressing regret at the dissent within the Amal ranks.

Group Claims Firing of Rockets at Galilee

NC061455 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] An organization calling itself "The Revolutionary Movement in Palestine" [Al-Harakah al-Thawriyah fi Filastin] has distributed a statement in Sidon claiming responsibility for firing the rockets which landed in Qiryat Shemona inside Israel yesterday, wounding five persons.

Al-Biqa' Expects Retaliation

NC061310 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] According to AFP, Palestinian fighters stationed in the central Al-Biqa' Valley were placed on alert today following Israel's threats to retaliate for the rocket attack on its northern areas. AFP says that the Palestinians have reduced the number of their personnel manning the southern Al-Biqa' posts. According to the Israeli army, this is the area from where the rockets were fired at Upper Galilee. The Palestinians also are reported to have placed their antiaircraft units on alert.

Army Officer Murdered in Kawthariyat al-Siyad

NC071230 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] According to security sources in the South, a Lebanese Army officer was assassinated this morning in Kawthariyat al-Siyad by gunmen riding in a BMW. A soldier accompanying the officer returned fire, killing a man by the name of Muhammad al-'Itani.

In another development in the South, Israeli warplanes overflew Sidon and the nearby camps at midday, drawing antiaircraft fire.

Meanwhile, clashes took place between SLA and Muslim extremist militiamen to the east of Sidon, in Lib'a, Kafr Falus, and 'Ayn al-Mir this morning.

Al-Asad Receives Secretary of State Shultz

JN041634 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Damascus—At 1645 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar and U.S. Ambassador in Damascus William Eagleton. [passage omitted]

Conveys Message, Departs

JN041906 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Shultz conveyed a written message from U.S. President Ronald Reagan to his excellency the president containing the U.S. Administration's overall conception of the way to establish a comprehensive peace in the region, indicating that he conveyed similar message to all the parties concerned in the region. The U.S. secretary presented an initial explanation of the contents of the message. Afterwards, a general discussion of the message was held. During the discussion, his excellency the president voiced some opinions regarding the message. At the end of the meeting, Shultz requested that Syria study the message and reply.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz left Damascus at 1930 today following a short visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the head of the Foreign Ministry's Amercian Department, the chief of protocol, the U.S. ambassador in Damascus, and the embassy staff. [passage omitted]

Commentary Says U.S. Peace Plan 'Monopolistic'

JN051555 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1234 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] Ladies and gentlmen: The U.S. Administration has presented to regional governments concerned in the Mideast crisis letters featuring the overall American perception of a comprehensive peace. These letters were brought by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to the parties with which Washington sought to discuss its pereceptions. Before the American perception was presented in writing, Shultz' assistant, Richard Murphy, and the secretary himself had each presented the U.S. ideas orally, which were characterized by those concerned as indefinite and unspecific, lost in big headlines and small particulars. The ideas were thought to approach the core problem via short-term partial measures. The written version affords a better opportunity for the parties concerned to study, discuss, and then respond to them than would have been the case with oral indefinite and unspecific ideas.

Short of going into the particulars of the American perception, which has yet to be made public, the U.S. position may be discerned from statements and utterances over the past few days by President Ronald Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz. The U.S. Administration seems to appreciate the seriousness of the regional situation, the urgency engendered by the popular uprising against Israeli occupation, and the pressing call of the international community for an international Mideast peace conference. It was under this combination of pressures that George Shultz spearheaded American moves on the lines of the shuttle diplomacy associated with former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Strikingly, the U.S. Administration seems to be trying to take sole charge of working out a solution independent of the United Nations, the Soviet Union, and the other permanent Security Council members, presenting them with a cut-and-dried, perhaps take-it-or-leave-it formula. The United States apparently still clings to a hope that it alone should devise a solution to the Mideast problem, although the monopolistic approach has been tried and found wanting.

Certainly there is no reason why the United States should not concern itself with the Mideast crisis. It is, after all, a superpower, a permanent UN Security Council member, and a strategic ally of Israel—a status that somehow makes the United States a party to the dispute. But the persistent question remains: Will this concern translate into a real contribution to a just, comprehensive, durable peace based on UN resolutions and peoples' rights or into giving succor to a belligerent Israel—rebellious against UN resolutions—rewarding it for its aggression and unruliness.

U.S. officials have been discussing the international conference and the legitimate rights of the Arab Palestinian people, which is good compared to previous U.S. Administration postures that rejected the international conference and dwarfed the Palestinian cause into one of Palestinian needs and refugees. However, merely floating headlines without clothing them with the proper substance makes them meaningless slogans. It will not do for the international conference to be a front to conceal a desire to have the victims of aggression enter into bilateral negotiations with Israel, the aggressor, where the latter is rewarded irrespective of binding UN resolutions. It should be an authoritative conference committed to the implementation of relevent UN resolutions.

A powerless, ineffective international conference will turn into a curtain to conceal an attempt to realize goals that Israel has failed to achieve through 40 years of war and aggression. The Arabs want the international conference to devise an overall settlement providing for a just, durable peace. But under no cirumstances will they be dragged to a conference of capitulation to Israel's aggression and ambitions. Such a peace is unattainable if Israel or any other party wants the international conference relieved of the responsibility of imposing UN resolutions calling for total

Israeli withdrawal from all of the territories occupied since 1967 and national, inalienable Palestinian rights, most of all, the right to self-determination and an independent state.

The attainment of a just, comprehensive peace shouldn't be an impossible mission, given a will on the part of all parties concerned to honor UN resolutions and respect other peoples' right to sovereignty and self-determination.

The U.S. role in the region will be positive to the extent that it draws closer to the principles of total Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab land and the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people. No Arab ruler can concede Arab rights or land. The destiny of whoever does will go down in the annals of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Afghanistan

2 Frenchmen Killed in Rebel Factional Conflict
LD061011 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0509 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, March 5, BAKHTAR—Two French citizens who were in charge of the military training of Afghan extremists were killed in an armed conflict occarred between the members of the two Afghan extremist groups stationed in Pakistan, reports reaching here say.

The clash took place at a time when some members of the extremist group of Gulbuddin [Hikmatyar] attacked on a convoy of arms and weapons belonging to the extremist group of Mawlawi Khalis in Mohmand [placename as received] region due to the intrinsic differences existing between the two groups.

As a result of the fire exchanged between the two groups the two Frenchmen including some extremist elements were killed.

No Advisers With Rebels
LD061414 Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] According to the TASS news agency, two French citizens have been killed in northwest Pakistan during clashes between Afghan rebels. The Soviet news agency referred to two French military instructors. The Foreign Ministry in Paris says it has no information about these two deaths and stresses that there are no French military advisers with the Afghan resistance.

Najibullah Message to UN Secretary General
LD050945 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0451 GMT 5 Mar 88

["The Text of President Najibullah Message to the UN Secretary General"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, March 4, BAKHTAR—I am confident that you are aware of the contents of my statement and that of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU CC dated 8th of February, with regard to the solution of the situation around Afghanistan, which was warmly welcomed by the people in our country and by the peace-loving forces of the world. In these statements of the Republic of Afghanistan and Soviet Union, positive response has been given to the last conditions of the other side pertaining to the return of the limited military contingent of the Soviet Union from Afghanistan.

We have declared that if the Geneva agreement is signed by 15th of March, the withdrawal of the contingents shall commence from 15th of May. The process of which shall be completed in ten months. If the agreement is signed earlier, the withdrawal of the contingents shall being sooner. Similarly, we have accepted that (?comparatively) larger portion of the contingents shall return in the first phase of the timeframe and have not conditioned the begining of the withdrawal to the formation of a coalition government.

From the time of the pronouncement of these statements till now, new developments have taken place, which indeed has become a source of concern to us and all the peace-loving people of the world. Now that all conditions conducive for the political solution of the situation is in hand, the Pakistan authorities by rapidly retreating from their previous positions, are tabling new condition of signing the Geneva accord. It is a matter which needs be seriously pondered upon. The conditions put forward are solely a matter of Afghanistan's internal affairs, and is in no way whatsoever concern to the four documents of the Geneva agreements, which focuses only on the solution of external dimensions of the issue.

After negotiating for nearly six years on the four documents of the Geneva accord which is almost completed with the Afghan side through the representative of the UN secretary general, Pakistan now most irresponsibly proclaims that it is not in a position to sign the said agreements with the government of the Republic of Afghanistan by violating the most fundamental principles of the accepted norms of inter-state conduct. Pakistan wants an end to the government of the Republic of Afghanistan and asks for the formation of a so-called transitional government. It needs not to be further emphasised that the internal issues in Afghanistan, including form and context of the coalition government on which we have clarified our position a year ago, can only be discussed by the Afghans themselves what is being forwarded by the Pakistani side as a new condition for the solution of the situation around Afghanistan is aimed at endangering the process of negotiations and will have no consequences other than the continuation of war and bloodshed.

The people of Afghanistan after enduring immense losses incurred as a result of nearly nine years of war attach great hope for the success of the national reconciliation and the Geneva talks. The policy of national reconciliation which has opened new horizons for the establishment of peace and national accord, gains further achievement with every passing day. This policy has brought about objective and favourable grounds conducive to the solution of the internal dimension of the issues and for creation of a coalition government in the country. The signing of the Geneva agreement shall bring an end to all forms of foreign interference in our country, shall bring about conditions conducive to the return of the Soviet forces and for the return of our refugee compatriots.

We have made serious preparation for participating in the forthcoming round of Geneva talks and shall not refrain from exerting effort demonstrating goodwill. But nevertheless, achieving this aim, needs positive political will of the other party.

Our people look forward for the support of all the peace-loving forces of the world to extend their support in the struggle for establishing peace and stability in their country and they shall not allow that the blood of innocent people shed, as a result of postponing the signing of the Geneva agreements.

On behalf of all the people of our country, I would like to ask you that through your moral prestige exert pressure on Pakistan to sign the Geneva instruments which are virtually finalized. The people and the government of Afghanistan highly commend the indefatiguable and high efforts of your excellency and your representative Mr. Cordovez for the realization of peace in Afghanistan and in the region.

BAKHTAR Commentary Examines Geneva Talks

LD061630 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Kabul, 6 Mar (BAKHTAR)—A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY commentary.

A BIA political commentator writes about the agreement reached on the fourth article of the Geneva agreements between the Republic of Afghanistan and Pakistan. The agreement has been finalized as a result of the flexibility and political goodwill on the part of Afghanistan.

What has been achieved during the first 3 days of the talks on reaching an agreement to solve the political situation around Afghanistan, which began on 13 March at the Palace of Nations in Geneva, demonstrates the notable progress toward the success of these talks.

The Afghan delegation has once again taken an active role as the peace envoy of the Afghan people and has followed the valuable aims of the 8 February statements by Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, on achieving a rapid settlement to the situation around Afghanistan and complete success for the Geneva talks. The delegation has consistently shown goodwill at the talks.

The Afghan delegation has agreed, in accordance with the spirit of the statements made by the leadership of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, to finalize the fourth article of the Geneva agreements. The limited contingent of Soviet troops will be withdrawn from Afghanistan and return to their peace-loving country within 9 months. Fifty percent of these forces will withdraw within the first 3 months and the remaining over the following 6 months. This agreement is considered a great breakthrough in the Geneva talks, and has been achieved as a result of the initiative and political stand by the Republic of Afghanistan for the cause of peace in Afghanistan and the entire region.

The political realism that has been formulated in the statements made by the leaders of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union is being implemented step by step. The confidence and goodwill on the part of the concerned sides has a determining role in this regard. The statements by the leaderships of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, as important and valuable international documents, enjoy the support of many world heads of state and governments as well as international and political circles, including in Pakistan. After the issue on setting a date for the withdrawal of the limited contingent of Soviet troops from Afghanistan, no other question remains in solving the situation around Afghanistan as part of the Geneva agreement.

The Geneva talks process shows that if Pakistan, like Afghanistan, expresses goodwill and political flexibility toward achieving a solution to the issues, then the Geneva agreements will be considered not only as a peace document for the settlement of the situation around Afghanistan and for ensuring peace and security in the region, but will also be transformed into an example for the political settlements of other regional conflicts.

International public opinion, parties and social and political organizations in Afghanistan and Pakistan and everyone else stress that the Geneva talks must bring positive results in the interests of peace in the Republic of Afghanistan and in the region in which the interests of the people of Pakistan also lie.

The Republic of Afghanistan has once again proved its loyalty to the contents of the statements by the leaders of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union in agreeing with the withdrawal of Soviet forces within 9 months.

It now depends on how the other side reacts to our goodwill and good political intentions. The people of Afghanistan believe that the national reconciliation policy is being successfully implemented in Afghanistan and paves the way for the formation of a coalition government with the participation of all groups, parties, and various strata in our society. Unfortunately, despite this goodwill by the Republic of Afghanistan it looks like there are certain individuals who are well-known in the United States, and in Pakistan, who do not have an interest in peace and tranquility in Afghanistan and who are striving to create difficulties for the Geneva negotiations.

Recently, it has been said in the international mass media that contrary to the efforts made by the United Nations, by the Republic of Afghanistan, and by the Soviet Union to achieve a political solution to the situation surrounding Afghanistan, the U.S. Senate has approved a resolution that the United States should continue its military assistance to the extremist opposition groups to Afghanistan's Government up to the end of the withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingents from Afghanistan. Also, the Pakistani authorities are trying to impose a transitional government from Islamabad on Afghanistan's people.

What can one say about such unjustifiable and impractical stands? These types of stands only show the ill will of the ruling circles of Pakistan toward the Geneva agreements. However, the aforementioned circles should understand that the signing of the Geneva agreements is the will of a decisive majority of Afghanistan's and Pakistan's people.

We expect the Pakistani leadership to use common sense, and by signing the Geneva agreements, to meet its historic responsibility to its people and to the people of the region for the cause of peace.

Wakil Addresses UN Human Rights Commission

LD060946 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Geneva, March 5, BAKHTAR—As proof of its full cooperation with the Commission on Human Rights, the government of the Republic of Afghanistan which always respected the Charter of the United Nations, the universal declaration on human rights and other international instruments concerning human rights and has observed their provisions in its domestic and international behaviour, has never failed to provide authentic information about the humanitarian measures taken by Afghanistan as well as about the country's legislation and its progress towards democratic rule of law. The invitation to the special reporter of the commission on human rights to Afghanistan, springs from the same sincere desire for cooperation.

This was stated by the foreign minister of Afghanistan 'Abdul Wakil yesterday at the 44th [word indistinct] of the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

The April Revolution has fixed objectives to abolish social and national oppression, ensure equal rights and duties for citizens, raise the living standard, develop the cultures of the various national and ethnic groups and [word indistinct] to make social and political life thoroughly democratic.

All those fundamental rights and freedoms are guaranteed by Afghan legislation the democratisation process of which is constantly carried out with good results, and practical steps have been taken to ensure their enjoyment. The Republic of Afghanistan adheres to relevant international instruments and is now party to nearly [figure indistinct] international instruments of human rights.

The new Constitution, publicly debated with the participation of 2 million people and with 15,000 rpt 15,000 proposals and ideas received by the drafting commission has been approved recently by the Loya Jirgah. The Constitution envisages a new parliamentary system for the country, the minister said.

Since human rights could not be realized without favourable political, social and economic conditions, the government of the Republic of Afghanistan, which has inherited a very backward society, has used every possible means to promote the social and economic development of the country and the well-being of the people.

Despite subversion and economic sabotage by the opponents, and resisting the undeclared and imposed war that resulted in many human and material losses, considerable progress has been made in the most important indexes in the national economy in the middle of the last five-years. The gross domestic product and the national income have increased by 18 and 10 per cent respectively in comparison with the year 1982.

The private sector holds a major place in the national economy. The concept of joining efforts of state organs with national entrepreneurs has acquired a legal status. The law on national and foreign private investments has been adopted. The volume of industrial production has grown by 29 per cent, including 50 per cent in the basic areas of heavy industry and infrastructural production by state and mixed sectors.

Over the same period, an additional sum of 83 billion Afghanis has been invested to meet the needs of the socio-economic development of the country 'Abdul Wakil added.

The country leaders, considering the implementation of peace on our land as the primary vital necessity, proclaimed the national reconciliation which is a link of a new political philosophy and an ardent desire of our war-weary people.

This new policy is conductive to the realization of major reforms, and constitutes a basic restructuring of the political system of the country.

This restructuring linked with democracy, leads to the creation of a coalition and multi-party system, new organs of people's sovereignty based on general elections to national assembly and local councils. This policy has received the vigorous support of our people and of political, humanitarian and international circles.

We offered reconciliation to our Afghans and have called upon them, wherever they live, to return to their homeland with honour. In the same way, in order to pave the way for those Afghans living outside the country to meet their relatives and familiarize themselves with the true situation in the country, a new decree provides that those compatriots who for different reasons are living permanently or temporarily outside the country can travel to Afghanistan and return to the desired country of their own free will.

In order to establish the government of national unity, until it acquires a coalition character, the state of the Republic of Afghanistan has offered 28 high-ranking state posts to the opponents and the party voluntarily refrains from monopolizing political power.

We have always opted for the continuation of a sustained and constructive dialogue with the opposition, and have launched all-out efforts to this end. We have presented more than 20 proposals to this end, and we are prepared to arrive at fresh compromises. But, unfortunately, all such overtures have been rejected.

Despite only a short time passed, our progresses to restoring peace are tangible. During one year, 3,200 rpt 3,200 villages have peacefully joined the people's power. Over 110,000 rpt 110,000 countrymen have returned to their families and ancestral land from the camps of Pakistan and Iran. This figure could have been much larger, had it not been for hindrances, for at least 80 per cent of the refugees are willing to return home. Over 40,000 rpt 40,000 armed men, former opponents, have given up resistance and concluded protocols on reconciliation and ceasefire and 5,000 rpt 5,000 representatives of these people have joined the organs of coalition administration, over 12,000 rpt 12,000 prisoners have been released from jails on the request of the commission for national reconciliation, a limited number still remain there. Right now, governors of five provinces are those who were previously the ringleaders of opponent armed groups.

Those who are violating human rights in Afghanistan are not forces of the popular power in the country but are those who have been waging an undeclared war against independent and non-aligned Afghanistan for more than 9 years now and who have of late expanded its dimension after the proclamation of the programme of national reconciliation. It is no longer a secret that hundreds of cases of clear violation of human rights by the opponent extremists groups who at the behest of international imperialism and reactionary forces in the region, are committing the most inhuman acts and resort to terror, murder and destruction in Afghanistan.

It is surprising that in the meetings of the commission on human rights, the representatives of those states which commit actions of serious violation of human rights not only within their countries but also outside, allow themselves to champion for human rights in Afghanistan.

The latest report on Afghanistan by the special reporter Prof. Felix Ermacora has reflected that the government of Afghanistan is doing everything possible to ensure the genuine exercise of the population's civil and political rights, as well as their economic, social and cultural rights. The report makes it possible to appreciate the co-operation shown by the authorities of Afghanistan and the freedom with which the special reporter has been able to carry out his task. It also recorded positive facts relating to the human rights situation in Afghanistan.

Nevertheless, the objective realities and the steps taken by the government to safeguard human rights have not been fully reported. Above all, the root cause of the threat to human rights, namely, interference from abroad, including organized acts of violence, was ignored. Although, the Republic of Afghanistan is ready, as in the past, to cooperate with the commission on human rights and with the special reporter, we consider logical that in order to achieve greater respect for human rights, the conflict and foreign interference must be brought to an end. The government's policy of national reconciliation meets these objectives. Lastly, greater progress could be made if the opponents are to respond positively to that gesture of goodwill and if a halt were called to foreign interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs.

The government and the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan are earnestly striving to create peaceful conditions for the Afghan people, in which the welfare of the individual and society could be pursued with freedom, equality and justice. The programme for national reconciliation is the only realistic means to that end.

For the attainment of these noble and human objectives, the Republic of Afghanistan relies on the firm backing of its people and urges the peace-loving and progressive forces of the world to assist Afghanistan in its humanistic endeavours.

Proceeding from the above-mentioned considerations, the Republic of Afghanistan invited delegations of the International Committee of the Red Cross to conduct a visit of prisoners and acquaint themselves with the prisons conditions as well as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees delegation to study the situation of the repatriate people. Similarly, it invited all the representatives members of the commission to participate in a seminar about "national reconciliation and human rights" which will be held in August 1988 in Kabul. We hope that this invitation will meet your agreement, concluded 'Abdul Wakil.

Najibullah Speaks at National Front Plenum

LD061920 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Speech by President Najibullah at a plenum of the National Front in Kabul on 6 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] Esteemed Abdurrahim Hatif, esteemed members of the plenum:

This broad and extraordinary plenum of the National Front is being held under special historical conditions. Some time ago the people of Afghanistan celebrated the first anniversary of national reconciliation. This year brought confidence and hope for the future to every Afghan's home. [passage omitted]

As you know the Republic of Afghanistan is seriously striving to peacefully resolve military matters through negotiations and without interference from abroad. The Afghan side once again showed political goodwill and flexibility at the Geneva talks. We believe in the inevitable outcome of the Geneva talks.

How is the situation there now? The acting Pakistani Foreign Minister Zain Noorani was informed of our position and he returned to Pakistan for consultations. Today he returned to Geneva, and the talks will continue tomorrow.

Once again the principled and flexible stands of the Republic of Afghanistan were reflected in the statements made on 8 February by the Afghan and Soviet leaders. We emphasized with new strength that Afghanistan is an independent, sovereign, nonaligned country. Only Afghans can determine the destiny of their country. No one should attempt to solve in their place the issues related to Afghanistan. A responsible turning point is appearing in the lives of our people.

I can say clearly that the National Front's role is important in creating favorable conditions aimed at establishing peace in the country. The high position of the National Front has been outlined in the Constitution. We fully support the important steps taken by the National Front. We hope that work will become more active in all directions. The basic directions of the National Front's current activities are ensuring peace and working to form and consolidate the coalition of the country's social and political forces.

On the platform of the National Front's activities, which will be approved by you, it has been mentioned that the National Front is an independent mass political organization that defends the national interests. We support the National Front's stand. [applause]

We will wait, however, for you to express your independence in the villages, at work, in residential areas, and in distributing grants-in-aid and so forth.

Esteemed members of the Central Council of the Afghan National Front:

We are on the eve of elections to the National Assembly. The elections will be held nationwide. Elections will be launched all over Afghan territory. The drafts and composition of the law have been prepared. Working groups exist in the election committees and will be sent to render assistance to the localities. Letters will be sent to the opposition containing proposals that they should elect, in accordance with the norms of the law, their worthy and acceptable representatives to the National Council.

It will be proposed to some opposition leaders, especially the commanders inside the country and the second grade commanders and heads of foreign emigre centers, to take part in the elections. A duty lies before you to present your specific proposals on candidates and send these proposals to the presidential apparatus.

We consider it a direct duty of the National Front councils to expand democracy, the electoral principles, and freedom of speech, and to involve the people in an active social life and to creation a coalition. The National Front councils in the countryside need to become more involved in explaining state policy and in attracting people more actively toward the state. We should talk boldly with the opposition and show initiative in this matter.

We have no reason at present to say that we will solve the problems in a week or a month or later. The problems should be solved now, today, and urgently. The fruitfull activities of the National Front should reflect clearly the general interests of the people in resolving their vital problems.

The National Front has taken serious steps during its existance, that is during 7 years, to consolidate the unity and cohesion of the national and patriotic forces and social organizations. Today's plenum is a new and important step in this process. Allow me to express appreciation on behalf of the presidency and the council for your honest and noble work. [applause]

Today you are talking about a fundamental transformation in the National Front's work. I think that time has arrived for the National Front to take responsibility for performing an active and leading role in consolidating the work of the national reconciliation commissions. The various national reconciliation commississions at various levels should report on their activities to the National Front. This is necessary because the National Front councils enjoy more possibilities to create contacts with opposition groups. Therefore, these contacts must be implemented, via the National Front, in order to sign protocols.

In 3 months time, the duties of implementing the decree on the arrangement of agrarian and water relations will rest on the National Reconciliation Commission and, without doubt, on all the members of the National Front. You have worked well in connection with the release of the prisoners. Do better on agrarian and water matters. We should work to turn the National Front into a truly mass, independent, social, and political organization and this organization should take a more active part in resolving important social and national problems. For example, the National Front can play an important role in organizing marches, meetings, voluntarily works, and so on. These measures will contribute on one hand to the establishment of a national compromise and the cohesion of the people, and on the other hand to the enhancement of the prestige and role of the National Front.

Unfortunately, many shortcomings and negative phenomena exist in the National Front's work. One of its weaknesses is its connection to the local governing bodies. We in the government will always respond positively to your demands and proposals. It is necessary for the activities of social organizations to become notably active in the framework of the National Front.

Try to involve the officials of these organizations in work with the councils of the Front and in implementing the decisions of the councils in their organizations. The National Front is duty bound to resolve greater and more responsible tasks in the social, cultural, and spiritual life of the people, in social ties, and in the field of strengthening international relations.

The National Front can and should be the reflection and full defender of national interests. It should be transformed in practice into a center of unity and mobilization of the political parties, social organizations, and individual members which are included in it in order to provide for their active participation in political, state, and social affairs and in order to implement the national reconciliation policy and create a new sociopolitical system in the country. Therefore, we invite you to explain to the people plainly, logically, and untiringly the model of our peace policy. [applause]

Reveal the true features of the enemies of peace and our people. Encourage people to the sacred duty of defending the homeland. Develop our tradition and customs and have a respectful approach toward the sacred religion of Islam. Strive and make an effort to consolidate unity among the tribes and nationalities. Express thanks for our friendship with our northern neighbor, during which we have have passed 70 years, by bidding farewell to the internationalist soliders of their country who helped us to safeguard Afghanistan and her territorial integrity.

Soon it will be a new year and the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution. Turn these days into festivals for each family, each village, and each collective. I wish you great success, worthy and noble representatives of the proud people of Afghanistan. Thank you.

Bangladesh

Ruling Jatiya Party Wins 'Absolute Majority'

BK041628 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Excerpt] The Jatiya Party has won an absolute majority in the election to parliament. The Party captured 194 of the 218 results unofficially announced by the election commission so far. The breakup of the results is: Jatiya Party 194, combined opposition parties 12, JSD-Siraj [Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal-Siraj] 1, Freedom Party 1, and independents 10. Nineteen members of the Council of Ministers have so far returned. [passage omitted]

Journalists Protest Directives, Stop Work

BK050514 Hong Kong AFP in English 0446 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Dhaka, March 5 (AFP)—Most Dhaka dailies failed to appear Saturday after journalists stopped work suddenly late Friday to protest against alleged directives to the press from the government. The work stoppage by the Bangladesh capital's nearly 1,000 journalists came after the Dhaka union of journalists held an emergency meeting and decided to protest against the alleged directives from the government Press Information Department, a union leader said.

"We know the reality, but we have to register our annoyance and protest at some stage against such nuisance," Federal Journalist Union President Riazuddin Ahmed said. Union leaders said that the Press Information Department had issued frequent restrictions by telephone recently on news and photo coverage of election violence and opposition-led strikes. At least seven people died and dozens were injured Thursday during parliamentary elections which were boycotted by the opposition.

The ruling Jatiya Party of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad won at least 179 seats in the 300-member parliament, according to Dhaka television, and was leading in most of the remaining constituencies still being tabulated.

Out of Dhaka's 12 major dailies only the pro-government Bengali daily JANATA appeared Saturday morning. JANATA is not a member of the journalists' union. The official BSS news agency also stopped its transmissions at 9:30 P.M. (1530 GMT) Friday.

A Bangladesh Information Ministry official said Saturday that "We don't know really why they (journalists) have stopped work. Unless we know it from them, how can we comment?"

Indian Fishing Boat Impounded by Navy 6 Mar

BK070314 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] A Bangladesh naval ship has impounded an Indian fishing boat near Hiran Point in Khulna. An ISPR [Inter-Service Public Relations] says Navy ship "Shahid Mohibullah" apprehended the fishing boat yesterday afternoon when it was illegally catching fish within the territorial waters of Bangladesh.

India

500 Tibetans in Delhi Protest Deaths in Lhasa

BK070910 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] About 500 Tibetans staged a demonstration at the Boat Club lawns in New Delhi this afternoon. This was in protest against police firing on a public demonstration in the Tibetan capital of Lhasa, in which nine Tibetans are feared to have been killed. The demonstrators, which included women, raised slogans denouncing human rights violation by the Chinese Government in Tibet.

Exiles Write Reagan

BK070659 Hong Kong AFP in English
0650 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] New Delhi, March 7 (AFP)—Tibetan exiles have written to U.S. President Ronald Reagan calling for a halt to talks with Chinese officials following reports that up to nine people died in Lhasa riots Saturday, a Tibetan exile leader said here Monday.

The Tibetan Youth Congress, which advocates Tibetan independence, would hand over the letter for Mr. Reagan to U.S. Embassy officials here later Monday.

The group, with a membership of some 10,000, was also appealing to Washington to send a congressional delegation to Tibet to investigate reports of human rights abuses by Chinese authorities, Tibetan Youth Congress Joint Secretary Tashi Phuntsok said.

Saturday's bloody Tibetan independence protests in Lhasa coincided with a visit to the United States by Chinese Foreign Minister Wu Xueqian, who was due to meet President Ronald Reagan Tuesday. The Tibetan Youth congress wanted further talks stopped.

Mr. Phuntsok said Tibetans would also stage an "emergency rally" in the Indian capital Monday to protest against "police repression" in Lhasa and the reported killings during the weekend protests.

Anti-Chinese protests in Lhasa which left between six and 13 people in October led to strains in Sino-U.S. relations.

Observers said the congress wanted to increase pressure on the Chinese authorities while the U.N. Human Rights Commission is sitting in Geneva. China, which overran Tibet in 1951, admitted at the commission last week that police fired into the air during the October protests in Lhasa.

China also admitted separately last week that a leading Tibetan dissident died in prison in 1987. Tibetan exiles announced the death last year, but Chinese officials had denied the reports.

53 Pakistani 'Intruders' Captured Off Coast

BK041337 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Fifty-three Pakistani intruders were apprehended by the Coast Guard vessel "Veera" off the coast of Gujarat yesterday. They have been handed over to the Gujarat police.

Punjab Assembly Dissolved; Congress-I Approves

BK061600 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] The Punjab Assembly has been dissolved with immediate effect. A presidential order dissolving the Assembly was issued in New Delhi today. Election to the Assembly was held in September 1985. The president's rule was imposed in the state on 11 May last year. The Assembly was kept under suspended animation. The president's rule was extended by another 6 months last November.

The Punjab Congress-I has welcomed the dissolution of the state Assembly. In a statement in Chandigarh today, the party general secretary, Dr Kewal Krishan, said no party had majority in the Assembly and under the circumstances keeping the house under animated suspension would have served no useful purpose.

The party also hailed the release of 5 Sikh high priests and 40 Jodhpur detenues. The resolution adopted at its meeting in Chandigarh said this would go a long way in ushering in an era of peace in the state. In another resolution, it condemned the Karisari carnage by the terrorists.

Opposition Criticizes Move

BK070328 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] The dissolution of Punjab Assembly came for criticism by senior leaders of the Unified Akali Dal [UAD], the Janata Party, and the CPI. In a joint statement, five UAD leaders described the dissolution as undemocratic. In a separate statement, the Punjab Janata Party chief, Mr Kirpal Singh, called the move as a step in haste. The veteran CPI leader and general secretary of the Punjab AITUC [All India Trade Union Congress], Mr Satyapal Dang, also criticized the government's action.

The CPI National Council secretary, Mr Avtar Singh Malhotra, has urged the prime minister to unfold the package plan for solving the Punjab problem and take the opposition parties into confidence on the issue. In a statement, Mr Malhotra welcomed the release of five Sikh priests and the first batch of Jodhpur detenues [Sikh political prisoners] and said this will pave the way for the return of peace in the state.

New Congress-I Ministry in Manipur Sworn In

BK050344 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] A new three-member Congress-I ministry, headed by Mr R.K. Jayachandra Singh, has assumed office in Manipur. The two other ministers are Mr (Sosolorho) and Mr (I. Tompok Singh), both of Cabinet rank. The governor, General K.V. Krishna Rao, administered the oath of office and secrecy to them at Imphal last night.

Earlier, in the sudden night developments, Mr Rishang Keishing, resigned from both the chief ministership and the leadership of the Congress-I legislature party. An emergency meeting of the legislature party elected Mr Jayachandra Singh as its new leader. Mr Buta Singh, Mr Santhosh Mohan Dev, and Mr Oscar Fernandez were present as Congress-I high command observers. Mr Jayachandra Singh is the 17th chief minister of Manipur. He resigned from the union council of ministers last month as minister of state for chemicals and petrochemicals.

Manipur Party Merges With Congress-I

BK051326 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Excerpt] In Manipur, the United Democratic Party, which has 10 members in the state assembly, has merged with the Congress-I. With this, the strength of the Congress-I has risen to 49 in the 60-member house. [passage omitted]

6 GNLF 'Activists' Killed in Kurseong

BK061618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] In West Bengal, 6 GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists were killed and 67 arrested in a raid on the (Bungklung) forest area of the Kurseong Subdivision today. The GNLF activists fired 150 rounds and used 10 landmines and 50 bombs against the raiding party. The CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawans [soldiers] returned the fire in self-defense, killing six GNLF activists. Five security men, including the officer in charge of Mirik police station, were injured in the operation. The additional superintendent of police, Kurseong, told the All India Radio correspondent that some of the arrested militants were involved in the killing of two CRPF personnel at (Foogri) last month.

Paper Details Missile Production Plans

BK061015 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 27 Feb 88 pp 1, 5

[By Man Mohan]

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 26—Thursday's successful test firing of India's tactical long-range surface-to-surface missile "Prithvi" at Sriharikota space station explains NATO countries' concern about our third-generation missile programmes.

Besides "Prithvi", India has also succeeded in developing three other sophisticated third-generation missiles—"Nag" (anti-tank), "Trishul" (short-range surface-to-air), and "Akash" (medium range surface-to-air). All the four missiles have been developed without foreign help.

After watching India's success in space programmes and its recent breakthroughs in missiles, seven countries, which include NATO members and Japan, some time back signed a memorandum of understanding, taking a pledge not to give assistance to any other country in the areas of missiles and rocketry.

These countries became apprehensive when they learnt about India's future plans about surface-to-surface, air-to-air, air-to-surface and anti-ship missiles.

As prototypes of all these split-second timing missiles have been made and successful trials carried out, these countries suspect that India now possesses the capability to put nuclear warheads on its third generation weapons. And that is why they are determined not to part with ever-changing complicated technology.

But the successful test firing of "Prithvi"—the 250 km range capability missile—has proved that India can develop its own sophisticated weapon systems. In fact, "Prithvi" has put India among the select group of four nations—the United States, the USSR, France, and China—which have developed this class of surface-to-surface missiles.

Most of the missile development programmes are, at present, being run at the Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad, and the "main brain" behind "Prithvi" and the other missiles is its Director, Dr A.P.J. Kalam, who says: "Let no one help us. Still, we will survive and, in fact, will prove that we can do a better job. India is the main target of the memorandum of understanding signed by seven developed countries".

The entire future missile programme and the technical package includes: dual thrust "RAM" rocket and liquid propulsion system, strap down internal and command guidance systems, homing guidance system, composite and metallic air-frames, phased array radar and ground system, high performance-high explosive warheads, missile power systems, actuators, missile software, and stimulation software.

The country's missile development programmes had suffered in the '60s and the '70s following the misfiring of some small prototypes. While the scientists had continued to pursue their targets, the decision-makers had scrapped the last project and then the second generation of missiles.

This had put the country behind by several years. It even started lagging behind some developing countries. China, years ago, acquired the ICBM capability after successful tests of the MRBMs and the IRBMs. Brazil started exporting its Astros-II surface-to-surface missiles to the West Asian market.

Besides the DRDL, 19 other defence laboratories are involved in the whole integrated guided missile development programme. The other organisations associated with it include agencies, 21 public sector, and six private sector units.

Although India has so far kept its research on missile programmes a closely guarded secret, it fears a concentrated effort of not only NATO nations but also of Pakistan and China to try to learn about the latest progress.

Keeping this in mind, the DRDL has decided to shift to a new maximum security complex known as "Immarat", about 20 km from Hyderabad. Spread over 2,000 acres, the area may also provide underground facilities for the production of different kinds of missiles. At the building the defence authorities will deploy electronic security, besides armed men patrolling the compound.

The Indian scientists claim that "Prithvi" is one of the most-advanced missiles of its kind and can match with such weapons available with the United States and the USSR. This long-range missile can hit stationary targets in the range of 250 km with different types of large payload war-heads to cause heavy damage. Compared to other missiles of this class, it has the best warhead-to-weight ratio.

Very advanced inertial navigation and guidance systems incorporating on-board computers operating with real-time software are used in the system. "Prithvi" will be inducted in the defence forces soon.

One of the other third-generation missile developed at the DRDL is "Nag". It is basically an anti-tank weapon, which can be fired at an enemy target from the surface as well from the air. In both the cases it works on the "heat concept", once fired from the ground or from a helicopter it homes on to the enemy target.

An all weather day-and-night missile with four km range, "Nag" with its computer guided "brain" looks at the whole profile of the enemy tank and drops on it from the top, blowing its turret before penetrating further down to destroy the inner gunnery system and crew.

"Nag" cannot be distracted away easily from its target by countermeasures, claim the scientists working on the weapon to make it more deadly. It is, however, a "fire-and-forget" weapon, with a good degree of accuracy.

Although a prototype "Nag" is ready to "hiss" [pun on word "Nag" which means snake]; user trials will continue till 1992 before it is put to production. The first set of trials are scheduled for June. About 100 surface-to-surface and air-to-surface trials will be organised in different terrains before "Nag" is produced and handed over to the Army for use.

The third missile is "Trishul", a multi-role nine-km range surface-to-air weapon, which is at an advance stage of production. A low-level quick reaction weapon, it can be put on wheels for the Air-Force and on a tracked vehicle for the Army.

Meant for hitting enemy aircraft before they bomb, "Trishul" is a command-line-of-sight missile, whose thermal battery provides power in half-a-second to prepare it instantly for firing.

This defensive missile uses high strength maraging steel flow formed rocket motor chamber with composite propellant in dual thrust mode. Made with flow formed aluminum alloy sections, its air-frame is capable of carrying it at high speed irrespective of weather conditions. The weapon's nose tip is of fibre-reinforced plastic radome.

This works on the principle of command guidance from a high-frequency ground radar and on-board control systems. It is also equipped with a television system which enables the weapon to keep the target in view. All the electronic circuits have been "hybridised."

The "Trishul" project was sanctioned in July, 1983, and since then six trial flights have been conducted so far for establishing the performance of missile sub-systems. Another two trial flights will be conducted soon. In fact, further development trials and user trials have been planned till the end of 1989 to achieve the best performance of the missile and the ground systems. "Trishul" is expected to commence production by 1990. However, production facilities are simultaneously being established.

While "Trishul" is a single-target-weapon, the fourth, "Akash" the medium range surface-to-air missile, can pick its own aim from a variety of targets. Its range is 25 km and is being developed for all the three services.

Iran

Navy Fires Warning Shots at U.S. Helicopters

LD071039 Tehran IRNA in English 1035 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—Two U.S. helicopters attempting to approach an Iranian zone in the Persian Gulf early Sunday were forced to flee by the anti-aircraft fire of naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Navy's anti-aircraft forces detected the two helicopters on its radar and warned them to stay out of the Iranian zone. However, the Navy fired warning shots after the U.S. helicopters violated the Iranian zone.

A Navy commander said the naval forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are vigilantly protecting the boundaries in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman and will severely respond to any violations by foreign forces.

Further Reportage on Anti-Soviet Demonstration

Tehran Rally

LD061608 Tehran IRNA in English 1455 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA—Thousands of university students, workers and other people staged a rally in the central streets of the capital Sunday, strongly protesting the superpowers' arms flow to the Iraqi Ba'thist regime.

During the rally, which started from Tehran University and marched towards the Soviet Embassy and the former U.S. den of espionage in Tehran, the marchers carried pictures of Iranian leaders and placards reading revolutionary slogans.

The marchers chanted revolutionary slogans, blasting the U.S. and the Soviet Union for their coordinated political and arms policies and for supplying arms to the Baghdad regime which they said have enabled Ba'thist rulers to savagely attack houses and hospitals in Iran.

At 15:00 hours local time (11:30 GMT), the protestors reached the Soviet Embassy which was heavily guarded by police and the Islamic revolutionary committeemen.

In spite of tight security arrangements, a number of students managed to slip into the embassy compound from over the southern wall bordering the Neauphle le Chateau Street but were soon taken out of the place by the alert policemen.

The angry protestors condemned the Soviet Union for arming Iraq's Ba'thist regime in its war against the Islamic Republic and reiterated Iranian people's preparedness to counter aggressions of the both superpowers and the Ba'thist regime of Iraq.

As proof of Moscow's involvement, they also displayed a shrapnel of a Soviet-made surface-to-surface missile which hit a residential area in Tehran.

Scores of civilians have been martyred and hundreds of others wounded in the inhuman Iraqi attacks on residential areas in Tehran with Soviet-made missiles.

The marchers later gathered in front of the former U.S. den of espionage (embassy) in Tehran, and read a resolution in condemnation of the superpowers.

"Today," said the resolution "Soviet-made missiles are fired at Iranian cities from inside Iraqi territory upon the orders of the U.S. as a result of which innocent women, children and old people are martyred inside houses, hospitals and schools. This indicates coordination of the superpowers in safeguarding their illicit interests," it added.

The resolution reiterated that the rally was staged by the students in protest to the pro-U.S. policy of the Moscow government. It also strongly warned the Soviet Union against confrontation with the Islamic revolution in Iran.

The pressure exerted on the Islamic Republic at international scenes by the criminal U.S. in league with the aggressor East in their vain bid to weaken the resistance of Iran's Muslim people in the Iraqi-imposed war, will have not even the least effect on the firm determination of this people, it said.

Elsewhere in the resolution, the students noted that although the U.S. is still Iran's number one enemy, the Soviet Union is standing beside Washington in a treacherous, foolish manner.

The Soviet Union by supplying new weapons to Iraq has proved its pro-U.S. nature and has stained its hands with the blood of Iranian martyrs, it said.

The continuation of such policy on the part of the Soviet Union will undoubtedly endanger its interests around the globe, warned the resolution.

The Soviet Union should know that raining missiles over Iranian cities will fail to make even the least change in Iran's just stance towards the interests of the struggling Muslim nation of Afghanistan and towards their right to rule their Islamic land.

The students also warned the Soviet Union to stop its supply of deadly weapons to the criminal regime of Iraq.

The resolution also lauded Palestinian Muslims for their heroic Islamic uprising against the Zionist regime and pledged Iranian people's full support for them in confrontation with the U.S. and the regime occupying Palestine.

Police Use Teargas

LD061106 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Esfahan, March 6, IRNA—University students in Esfahan marched towards the Soviet Consulate Sunday to condemn Soviet delivery of long-range missiles to Iraq. Police fired tear gas and dispersed them before coming too close to the embassy compounds. They were chanting "down with U.S.S.R." and "close down the Soviet Embassy."

The group gathered in alleys near the consulate but later dispersed upon the advice of a local religious figure.

Baghdad has fired at least 30 Soviet-made missiles to Tehran and Qom since Monday taking a heavy toll of civilians including children, women and patients at hospitals.

Resolution Issued by Marchers

LD061912 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] The march staged by the students and other people of Tehran as a sign of readiness to continue their holy war until victory is achieved is the topic of the first news report.

Following the resumption of the aggressive and warmongering Iraqi regime's criminal air raids and missile attacks on residential areas of Islamic Iran, the students and other Muslim people of Tehran today marched from the University of Tehran toward the former U.S. den of espionage. During the march the demonstrators chanted the following slogans: "We will fight, we will die, we will not compromise," "Missiles and air raids have no effect," "Saddam has no option but suicide," "The war will continue until the death of Saddam," "The war will continue until the elimination of the warmonger," "We will never end the war with an imposed peace," "Such acts cannot save the aggressor who started the war," and "World arrogance shall take to the grave its hope of imposing compromise and surrender on the Muslim Iranian people." They again demonstrated their firm resolve to continue their holy war until the achievement of final victory.

At the end of these demonstrations a resolution containing nine articles was read and was approved by the Hezbollahi ummah chanting "God is great." A part of this resolution says: The superpowers and the supporters of Saddam's regime have seen all their plots defeated, including political, propaganda, and even economic moves, as well as the puppet shows staged by international organizations and assemblies. Now they find themselves powerless in confronting the Islamic Revolution and its expansion, and they are expecting the imminent downfall of the Zionist Iraqi regime. They have adopted a common position in order to safeguard their world-devouring interests.

The resolution, referring to the resistance of the Muslim Iranian people and the failure of the conspiracies of world arrogance, emphasizes: The imposed war is not only a war between two countries. On the contrary, this war is confrontation between Islam and the totality of world blasphemy. There is no doubt that the fate of all Islamic peoples and countries is tied up with our fate in the war.

Another article of this resolution, referring to the fact tht the world-devouring United States is still the No 1 enemy of the oppressed and down-trodden people of the world, says: Our goal in the imposed war is the downfall of Saddam and the elimination of the Ba'th Party ruling over Iraq. We will remain steadfast in this goal to the last house, to the last breath, and to the last drop of our blood.

Another article of this resoluton states: International organizations led by the United Nations and the Security Council should know that any resolution that puts pressure on the Islamic Revolution will not make us refrain from demanding legitimate rights. Through our resistance and endurance, we shall defeat any arms, economic, or commercial embargoes.

The resolution also says: The nation and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran do not regard cities, villages, or residential areas and nonmilitary targets as scenes of battle. Therefore, the warmongering acts of the criminal and treacherous Saddam will be given a firm rebuff on the battlefronts. We shall resort to retaliatory acts only to prevent the Iraqi regime from continuing its crimes, and we will decide the fate of the war on the battlefronts.

Another part of the resolution expresses support for the uprising and the Islamic revolution of the heroic Palestinian people: We announce that even under the most difficult conditions, we will be on their side with all our material and spiritual strength against the world-devouring United States and the usupring and criminal Israel.

Qom Lecturers' Statement

LD061149 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1120 GMT 6 Mar 88

[From the press review]]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A statement issued by the lecturers of the seminary school in Qom says: The Iranian nation can no longer approve of friendly relations between state officials and the governments which, in spite of their claims of friendship, allow the use of such weapons by the Iraqi regime. [passage omitted]

2 Japanese Reporters Detained

LD071007 Kuwait KUNA in English 0826 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Tokyo, March 7 (KUNA)—Iranian security authorities have detained two Japanese reporters who were called by Iranian Ministry of Culture to cover anti-Soviet demonstrations in Tehran yesterday, according to Japanese press reports Monday.

The reports added that correspondents of newspaper YOMIURI SHIMBUN, Masaaki Suzuki and Makoto Suzuki of NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN economic newspaper were detained in front of the Soviet Embassy in Tehran and were interrogated for five hours.

The rioting Iranians attacked the Soviet Embassy in Tehran with stones and incendiary devices in an assault which threatened the lives of its staff, according to official TASS NEWS AGENCY.

The crowd accused Moscow of supplying Iraq with missiles in latest escalations in the cities war between the two warring countries.

The Japanese reporters and foreign journalists bureau in Tehran were quoted as saying that a number of Revolutionary Guards took the two reporters to a place under the ground for investigations on their press activities.

The two Japanese reporters were taking pictures of demonstrations in front of the Soviet Embassy at the request of Iranian Culture Ministry, the reports said.

Larijani Holds News Conference on Iraqi Attacks

LD061242 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Report on news conference by Mohammad Javad Larijani, deputy minister in charge of economic affairs, on 6 March at the Foreign Ministry—recorded]

[Text] At the news conference, Mr Larijani outlined Iran's stand regarding Security Council Resolution No 598 and the UN secretary general's plan. He said: Iran has accepted the secretary general's plan. We believe this plan to be practicable and positive. According to the plan, first the aggressor should be named and then a reasonable and fair solution should be found.

Stressing that Iran will cooperate in every way, he pointed out: The secretary general's biggest problem is the opposition of the warmongering Iraqi regime and the United States to this plan.

Regarding the rumors spread by arrogant media about Iran's acceptance of Resolution No 598, he said: Whenever our enemies wish to deceive the world, we reiterate our position. If peace and security are really the aim of international organizations, the aggressor and the initiator of the war should be named. This is the demand of a nation that has been subjected to aggression.

Stressing that no peace plan should aim at rescuing a warmongering regime, Mr Larijani said: If justice is to be served, the warmonger should be identified. He added: In addition to starting the war, the Iraqi regime has committed numerous other crimes, such as attacking residential areas, merchant ships, and passenger planes. It has also tried to spread the war. International organizations should look into all these crimes.

Condemning the positions of international organizations, he stressed: We are a country subjected to aggression. Our rights have been trampled on. We must regain our lost rights. In this matter, international organizations have certain duties which they have not performed thus far. Therefore, the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to perform its duty to attain its rights.

Emphasizing the failure of the plan to impose an arms embargo on Iran, he said: Iran will not cease its resistance because of the arms embargo for we are a powerful nation. He added: If the Security Council decides anything against the Islamic Republic, it would mean that the secretary general's plan is finished. The raising of any issue against Iran at the Security Council would lead to the secretary general's plan being sacrificed.

Regarding the recent crimes committed by the warmongering Iraqi regime in attacking cities and residential areas with missiles and planes, he said: Iraq is an aggressor regime and has committed various crimes. Any country assisting Iraq in its aggression against Iran is an accomplice in Iraq's crime.

Stressing the point that the firing of some missiles at Tehran would not disturb the strategic balance between Iran and Iraq, he said: We will continue to have the upper hand in the imposed war. The world will see this in the future. He added: One of the reasons for Iraq's resorting to the war of the cities was because it no longer had the strength to resist on the battlefronts. With this action Iraq has tried to speed up Iran's future operations [as heard]. However, we declare that these actions will have no military effect. Western countries have also admitted this.

The Foreign Ministry's economic and international affairs deputy minister said: We rely on neither the East nor the West. We say this strongly: Iraq cannot do anything, even if the world powers continue to give it advanced weapons. In effect, they are attacking their own interests. He added: Iran did not start the war of the cities and has constantly followed the policy of deterring Iraq. As soon as Iraq ceases to attack Iranian cities and residential areas, Iran will stop attacking Iraq's economic and military installations.

Regarding the Afghanistan issue and the necessity for the unconditional withdrawal of foreign troops, he stressed: A nation that has resisted a powerful invasion by the Soviet superpower for many years and has brought the USSR to its knees is capable of creating a popular government. The present government in Afghanistan is neither legitimate nor competent because it has been put in power by an aggressor force. He added: Iran does not consider the Geneva talks legitimate because the true representatives of the oppressed Afghan nation—the Muslim mujahidin—are not participating.

Rejects Soviet Denial

LD062011 Tehran IRNA in English 1945 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA—Without doubt the Iraqi regime is the aggressor and if any country provides the war-mongering Ba'thist regime with weapons, it will surely be regarded as an accomplice in the Baghdad rulers' crimes, said Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic and International Affairs Mohammad Javad Larijani, here today.

He made it clear that Iranian people will never forget which countries have backed the Ba'thist regime.

Larijani speaking at a press conference, said the Soviet Union is toiling in vain to save Saddam's Husayn regime which will never cease resisting till the achievement of their principal goals and punishment of the aggressor.

The Islamic Republic warns the Iraqi regime's supporters that their banking on Baghdad's Ba'thist regime will end in naught, he said.

On the Iraqi regime's access to Soviet-made missiles for attacking Iranian cities, Larijani said Iran already had information on Iraq's access to these missiles since the last seven months.

"On my visit to Moscow, I clearly told the Soviet President (Andrey Gromyko) and Prime Minister (Nikolay Ryzhkov) that any missile or bomb given to the tottering regime of Iraq by the Soviet Union will first hit Tehran-Moscow relations before hitting Iranian soil," revealed Larijani.

The Foreign Ministry official specified that if Russians are really keen to promote relations with the Islamic Republic, they should attach importance to Iran's stands. Banking on the shaky Baghdad regime is certainly not a wise thing to do, he advised Moscow adding, from military point of view Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran are devoid of any effect.

As Baghdad rulers await Iranian combatants' moves any minute at the war fronts, the nervous Iraqi army has lost its morale, he said. Therefore, he added, Iraqi rulers fancied that in attacking Tehran with missiles, they would pressure the Muslim combatants to speed up their operations.

Pointing to Moscow's reaction towards Tehran's protest, Larijani said the Soviets continue to deny giving any long-range missile to the Iraqi regime. "But it is not convincing to us," he added.

These particular missiles, he went on, cannot be purchased in any other place, and if the Soviets claim they are ignorant from where Iraq gained access to the missiles, "it is a stupid talk."

Larijani referring to the recent visit to Tehran by the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Vladimir Petrovskiy and the subjects of the talks, pointed out that talks were mainly centered on the Afghan issue and Soviet forces' pull-out from that Muslim country. "We clearly announced at the meetings that since Soviet forces intruded into Afghanistan without permission, there is no need for a permission to withdraw."

On Geneva talks, Larijani said Iran has time and again announced that since Afghan mujahidin are not present at the talks, the Geneva talks lack necessary legitimacy.

The deputy foreign minister rejecting any connection between Iran's stance on Afghanistan and Iraq's access to Soviet-made long-range missiles, said Iran believes that any linking of the two issues should be mutual, and Iran does not see such connection between the two subjects.

Elsewhere in the conference, Larijani pointing to U.S. efforts for pushing an arms embargo resolution against Iran said, the theory (of arms embargo) is a scandalous one which is contrary to all basic principles of the United Nations. The suggestion, he added, proves the bitter U.S. animosity against Iran.

"We declare that any arms embargo plan against Iran will not succeed, because Iran is a strong nation with vast facilities at its disposal," he stressed.

He reiterated Iran will not budge from its legitmate position despite an arms embargo, adding "we will continue to resist until the aggressor is punished."

The Islamic Republic declares that any Security Council decision against Iran, will automatically mean the end of the U.N. secretary-general Javier Perez de Cuellar's plan on the imposed war. In fact, he added, the first victim of such a misconstrued decision will be the efforts so far made in this regard.

The Iranian official then turned toward the feverish attempts of the U.S. and Britain to push such a plan through the security Council, and said the Council's atmosphere is against an embargo despite the U.S. and British lobbying. He added even some permanent members have announced opposition to the plan.

He said the U.S. itself knows better than anyone else that any arms embargo against Iran is impossible, because neither the U.S. can exercise control over its defense companies which sell weapons, nor will other countries vouchsafe the decision.

"We are not against cooperation with the U.N. secretary general," Larijani said referring to De Cuellar's plan and added "but his (de Cuellar's) problem is the Iraqi regime's opposition to the plan." The Iraqi regime's foreign minister has clearly announced opposition to the second round of talks in a message to the secretary general.

On the other hand, he continued, the U.S. has proved it has no interest in executing Resolution 598. Washington's objective is solely to pressure Iran and it has so far hindered carrying-out of De Cuellar's plan.

Some of the Security Council members including the U.S., Britain and France take only their vested interests into consideration regardless of the primary goals of the Council which are to prevent aggression and condemn the aggressor.

Larijani further said despite its vague framework, Resolution 598 has some positive points for identifying and punishing the aggressor, adding the secretary-general's plan is not based on the resolution's paragraphs in sequel.

It is evident that the aggressor is known to everybody and most of the governments have identified the Iraqi regime as the initiator of the war, Larijani said. According to international conventions, he added, Ba'thist Iraq has committed military invasion and many other crimes including expansion of the war to other countries, deployment of chemical weapons, and attacks on residential areas. "Each of its crimes need to be investigated and the perpetrators of the crimes should be punished," he emphasised.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry official concluded by stressing that the war-mongering Iraqi regime will dearly pay for its barbaric crimes.

Majlis Speaker Vows Revenge for Missile Strikes

LD050951 Tehran IRNA in English 0919 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Saturday that Iran's Muslim combatants will revenge Iraqi missile attacks on Iranian cities.

The speaker made the remarks in a brief speech at the open session of the Majlis and assured the families of martyrs of the Iraqi raids of an appropriate response by Muslim forces.

Meanwhile Tehran deputies in Majlis in a statement Saturday said that the Iraqi Government will not benefit from attacking Iranian cities, but that it will receive a crushing blow from Muslim forces in response.

The statement added that the Iranian people have repeatedly proved their resistance, and that the imperialists' conspiracy against the Islamic Republic would be foiled.

Musavi Warns of Retaliation Against Iraq

LD061311 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] At the end of today's Cabinet session, Prime Minister Musavi gave an interview to the Central News Unit correspondent. Referring to the resistance and the steadfastness of the heroic nation of Iran against the evil attacks of the Zionist regime of Iraq, he said: We will repay each blow with a stronger one. Saddam's regime can be sure that, as always, it will fail this test as well and, besides sustaining heavy damage, it will receive a hard slap in the face.

Concerning the political pressures exerted by international bodies for the Islamic Republic of Iran to compromise, the prime minister stressed: The government will remain alongside the fighters until the enemy is crushed. Any false hope harbored by the oppressive powers in the world about forcing our nation to compromise will never make our nation surrender.

Velayati Cables Red Cross on Missile Attacks

LD051331 Tehran IRNA in English 1243 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a message cabled to President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Cornelio Sommaruga Saturday called on him to take proper measure to force the Iraqi regime to discontinue its attacks on Iranian cities.

Velayati expressed hope that ICRC by fulfilling its humanitarian duties and sending fact-finding teams to the bombed residential quarters in Iran take just, impartial stance vis-a-vis resumption of Iraqi air and missile attacks on Iranian cities.

The foreign minister also criticized international organizations for their silence on the repeated inhuman Iraqi aggressions against Iran's civilian areas which he said has encouraged the Baghdad regime to intensify its attacks.

He recalled that residential areas in Tehran have thus far been struck by 30 Iraqi surface-to-surface missiles as a result of which many civilians have been martyred and wounded.

The Iraqi regime by receiving more destructive weapons from the superpowers has seriously threatened the security and stability of the region and the world, he warned.

Elsewhere in the message, Velayati enumerated Iraqi missile and air attacks on Iranian cities including the holy city of Qom and hospitals.

Even the criminal Nazi leader Adolf Hitler did not attack holy cities and hospitals during the World War II, he said, but the Iraqi regime, by committing such inhuman crime, has caused Hitler seem tame in comparison.

He said the holy city of Qom was struck by an Iraqi surface-to-surface missile on March 2, which coincided with the birth anniversary of Imam 'Ali (A.S.), the first imam of Prophet Mohammad's (SAW) household just as a large number of foreign and Iranian people were performing pilgrimage.

On March 3, Velayati said, an Iraqi missile hit a hospital in Tehran in which people wounded in previous enemy missile and air attacks were being treated.

Foreign Minister Velayati noted that there is a question in the minds of the revolutionary people of Iran and that is why international organizations which claim to be working for humanitarian cause, are silent vis-a-vis the countless crimes being committed by the Iraqi regime.

Velayati made it clear that the revolutionary Muslim people of Iran have always emerged victorious in confronting of enemy plots, crushing any aggression against their country in the course of the over seven-year old Iraqi-imposed war.

Blames UN for Iraqi 'Crimes'

LD060548 Tehran IRNA in English 0542 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in a letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar Saturday said the Iraqi regime has again betrayed its "inhuman and belligerent" outlooks to the world.

He said Baghdad has turned a blind eye on international conventions and disregarded the UN secretary general and Security Council's calls for sparing cities from hostile military operations. He said since Saddam Husayn has resumed attacks on residential areas and since he persistently continues his "war crimes" the Islamic Republic of Iran has no alternative but to retaliate.

Velayati stressed that Baghdad will bear the prime responsibility for its atrocities though its supporters and to a lesser degree the UN and other international bodies will be to blame for the consequences of Baghdad's continued war crimes since those bodies have shrugged off the matter despite repeated appeals by Iran.

Comments on UN Resolution

LD061756 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] In response to a question from our correspondent regarding the reports of some Western mass media on the political position of Iran's permanent representative [to the UN] in New York, Foreign Minister Velayati said: The position of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the imposed war and Resolution No 598 is quite clear and the remarks of our officials since the beginning of the war to the present have left no room for ambiguity. No solution will be acceptable to the Islamic Republic of Iran unless our just conditions are met, primatily the naming of the Iraqi regime as the aggressor and the punishment of that country's criminal regime.

Mr Velayati emphasized: The bombings of residential areas have made the file on the crimes of the Iraqi regime even thicker and have further strengthened our nation's resolve to continue with a stronger confrontation. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the fate of the war will be decided by our fighters on the battlefronts of truth and falsehood.

Mahallati Criticizes UN Secretary General

LD041731 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Mohammad Ja'far Mahallati, representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the United Nations, met on Wednesday with the UN secretary general and the president of the Security Council and spoke with them about the resumption of Iraq's attacks on residential areas. He said it is not enough for the secretary general and the president of the Security Council to express their concern over the renewal and intensity of the attacks against residential areas. He said the United Nations is dutybound to initiate serious and urgent measures to halt the crimes of the aggressor Iraqi regime, crimes against mankind.

He criticized the secretary general and the head of the Security Council for calling on both countries to stop their attacks on residential areas and remarked: Just as it was stated in the mass media, Iraq, as always, began these inhuman attacks and the Islamic Republic of Iran, as always, has exercised the utmost self-restraint in its limited retaliation. Therefore, to ask the Islamic Republic of Iran to halt the attacks is meaningless.

Mr Mahallati said: In our opinion there is a link between the insane behavior of Iraq and the defeat of the United States in trying to effect an arms embargo against the Islamic Republic in the UN Security Council. Last month, when the United States chaired the Security Council, it did its utmost to have a resolution passed on an arms and military embargo against the Islamic Republic. The Iraqi attacks began and escalated immediately at the end of the U.S. chairmanship of the Security Council and the defeat of the embargo resolution project. He added: The insane crimes of Iraq makes it all the more difficult to move toward a just political solution, and this, above all, proves that Iraq's peace-seeking slogans in the United Nations are lies.

Foreign Ministry Statement Condemns Attacks

NC060837 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Following the intensification of the Iraqi aggressor regime's crimes as a result of its missile attacks on residential areas of our country, the Foreign Ministry spokesman stated: International authorities and heads of countries, who had termed the Islamic Republic of Iran's military operations on the warfronts, undertaken to bring a durable peace, as a step against peace and international security, now—in concert with the criminal Saddam regime—deem the missile attacks on residential areas and the killing of women, children, and sick patients in hospitals, as efforts aimed at attaining peace and implementing UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman added: The anti-human Saddam regime, as well as its supporters, should know that there will be no change in the Islamic Republic's just positions for ending the war. They should realize that all political efforts to end this war will be futile until Iraq is identified as the aggressor, and is subsequently punished.

Khomeyni Receives Relief Committee Members

LD061137 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] On the anniversary of the formation of the Imam's Relief Committee, Asgarowladi, Nayyeri, Heydari, and Shafiq, members of the central branch of the committee, were received by Imam Khomeyni and reported on the working and achievements of this organization.

The imam of the ummah said: Your work is praiseworthy and I thank you. You should try to be sincere in everything you do. You should make every effort to work for God Almighty. Sometimes the deed is great, but as it is not done for God it is of no value. However, because you are sincere in your work, your work is valuable. I always pray for you. I pray for your success.

Amal Leader Sends Condolences to Khomeyni

LD041821 Tehran IRNA in English 1735 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Beirut, March 4, IRNA—Leader of Amal Movement Nabih Birri in his cable to Imam Khomeyni Thursday condoled him on the martyrdom of Iranian civilians in the Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran and Qom this week.

Birri said that "the criminal acts of the Baghdad regime" will make the Iranian people resist until the ruling Iraqi regime is overthrown and that the plots of the enemies of Islam "can never extinguish the divine light of the Islamic Revolution."

Meanwhile, the operational wing of Amal in a statement described the savage crimes of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime as a blatant aggression against the Muslim Palestinian uprising and said Amal would step up its operations in the occupied Palestine and southern Lebanon. [passage omitted]

Musavi-Ardabili Sermon on Missile Attacks

LD042121 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1528 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Friday prayers sermon delivered by 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, at Tehran University on 4 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] Waves of people wearing their death shrouds came and filled the arena without any weapons. They came for prayers and for martyrdom. That sort of intention and meaning, and that order and that objective produces such results. Brothers and sisters, we became involved in a jihad, a revolution, and a war containing the above meaning. We passed through its various phases and now we have entered a new phase: missile attacks against the cities accompanied by the bombing of towns.

Why did Saddam begin the missile attacks and why now? Why did he choose this moment when the UN Security Council, for the benefit of its second resolution, tells to us that we will be subjected to an embargo, an arms embargo followed by an economic embargo. They say we objected to Resolution No 598 and that Iran has issued a protest. What can one say now? We give you 1 day's notice or even 2, or even 1 month's notice to act.

In this hue and cry in Israel they burn people alive, break hands and feet. [passage omitted] Then this gentleman [Saddam] begins an extensive wave of missile attacks. Was this a coincidence, a purely random event without any connection with other events? All the analyses completed in the world—were these related? The United States and the Zionists told Saddam the time was ripe for dastardly acts so that world public opinion might be diverted from the Palestinian issue. Nothing else could divert attention when the massacres and horrible crimes were publicized in the world mass media, thus shocking the world public, except continuous missile attacks against Iranian cities and Tehran's (?environs). Was this the reason? Or was it the Security Council that gave this idea to Saddam, saying that as they had begun this trend of events by threatening the Iranians, then he should do something inside Iran to exert pressure.

Well now we have the missile attacks and also the arms embargo. How far do you want to go? Come here and assist us so that we can do something in Iran, one way or the other. Was this another reason? Perhaps this was because Saddam had become exasperated at the battlefronts and this was intolerable for him. "Zafar-6" brought hard times to Saddam, so we were told. The "Zafar-6" operations had Iraqi mojahedin at the advanced assault lines, some of whom had left from Iran and a number of whom were in Iraq and still remain inside Iraq now; they joined ranks. These escaped soldiers and mojahedin on Iraqi soil came and took up arms and inflicted great pain on Saddam either in the north or the south of Iraq. [crowd cheers]

It is not unlikely for all this to have been true. According to a third analysis, Saddam Husayn himself wanted it. Israel, the United States, and Zionism wanted it. The Security Council and all its stablemates wanted it. Therefore, the whole world wants it. Well, they came and showered us with missiles. Beforehand, they set up a great hue and cry with their comings and goings and they initiated a lot of preparations. Then, on the 1st day, they also made a lot of noise. What followed? They showered us with missiles. We had not seen their missiles before; now we have.

What happened? A nation, which bore the heavy burden of a widescale Islamic jihad for 9 years, was waiting to see what a missile could do. They fired 25 missiles at Tehran. Of course, some people say it was more, some say it was less; we tried to find out. It was definitely 25 missiles. What was the extent of damage? When I asked the coroner how many bodies had been brought in, he said there were 24 bodies, 22 of which have been identified. The sum total of our losses, our martyrs, was 24 persons. Why? As our imam said, the people laughed at it. Should they not laugh? There were 25 missiles and 24 martyrs. Yesterday, a newspaper report said that 19 persons died in a motor accident. [passage omitted]

I have made some inquiries; we have fired 10 missiles at Baghdad. They fired 25 at Tehran, we fired 10 at Baghdad. Brothers and sisters, Saddam knows full well that the destructive power of our missiles is five times that of his missiles. [crowd cheers]

By the grace of the Creator, as a result of the efforts and the self-sacrifices of our experts and young hezbollahis, they have promised that before the year 1367 [March 21 1988 to March 20 1989] comes to an end, we shall reach self-sufficiency from the military standpoint. [crowd cheers, chants "Death to Israel"] In this very year we are approaching, 10 weapons manufacturing factories will be inaugurated. The aircraft industry has made excellent progress and the building of large and small naval vessels has reached a high level. Before they place us under an embargo, our hands, God willing, are very full.

They have not been firing missiles for several hours now. We are not firing them either. We are firing neither missiles nor cannons. This is an undeclared lapse, but I have declared that we will retaliate in kind. Saddam should know that if he were to reach out for a missile and move his hand toward the trigger, he would die under a barrage of fire. [crowd chants slogans] However, they imposed the war on us; they imposed the war on the Persian Gulf; they imposed the war of cities on us. The only thing they could not impose on us was an imposed peace. They could not do this. We do not want the war of cities. We say: O you 'Aflaqi Saddam! What you are doing is not manly, it has no value. To hit hospitals, schools, to kill chidren, to kill old women and the sick—I do not know what kind of name can one give to all this, to kill weaponless people?

We declare we are retaliating in kind. Whenever the enemy, this criminal enemy, stops these wicked deeds, we shall not hit cities. If they eliminate the Persian Gulf from the war theater, we also will eliminate the war of the Persian Gulf. However, to those who want us—as well as Saddam—to stop hitting cities, we say that even if you were to say 1,000 times that we should stop, we would not listen. You want to keep pressuring us to give up the battlefronts; we will not do so. Yet there is no need for you to say anything about hitting cities—we are not hitting cities, we are retaliating—in kind. And look who is telling us—Kuwait, the United States! We do not need any suggestions. We are not going to do it [give up the battlefronts]. Tell that criminal, that savage, not to hit cities. Iran has announced: We will retaliate in kind; do not internationalize the war, do not drag others into the war—if you were to die, to come alive again, to hit cities, to rain down missiles.

This missile issue has been resolved too, thank God. Up to now Saddam has been saying: We have weapons; we have many. If we were to rain them down over your heads, do you know what would happen? Do you know what would happen? We understood what would happen—nothing. We understood this, we understood what would happen—nothing! Now they say—I heard that one of his military personnel said: No, you see, this was nothing—we have another weapon and this one is really sensational! Well if it is sensational, let it be sensational, we will wait to see what happens. Those who... [Musavi-Ardabili changes thought] Although we are at the peak of our power, we do not want to hit cities.

Thanks be to God, in this shower of missiles, as you would term it, our nation came out victorious, happy, laughing. People said: We had not seen this before and now we have. This ended and you should know that this missile shower has brought no result for those who approve of such scenes other than anger, fury, and curses. [crowd shouts approval]

We declare that we will not stop the war. We shall face the enemy at the battlefront. We shall go forth until Saddam has been destroyed. We condemn this mischief, but we are capable of fully retaliating. [crowd cheers] [passage omitted]

One of the issues in question this week is that of the Imam Relief Committee. Today is a holiday [as heard]. Before my sermon, you heard the matter explained by our brother. [passage omitted]

Concerning the second issue, we have been told that in order to help the dear, honorable fighters on the battlefronts on Thursday, that is, yesterday, hundreds of doctors, paramedics, and nurses from Tehran came to the mosque at this university and left for the battlefronts and the war zones. They were seen off by their wives and children. They went to help our dear fighters in Khuzestan, Bakhtaran, Kordestan, and Ilam. This is the duty of all of us, even if it costs us our lives. We thank and praise the dear fighters and all those who help them, those dear brothers and sisters who take part in this religious task. [passage omitted]

Another issue is that of the Agriculture Ministry and the State Forestry and Pastures Organization. They have declared next week to be Natural Resources Week. [passage omitted]

Another issue is Israel's crime. Israel is committing terrible crimes. They burn people [as heard], set fire to buildings, bury people alive, as we have seen on television. They attack schools. The international organizations have kept quiet—those who make claims about human rights, as if these women and children are not human beings, or have no rights, or that they deserve to have their arms and legs broken under the rubble.

What can these disgraced people tell the world? What can they claim with such impudence? Our imam has commented that Iran declares it stands side by side with the Muslim Palestinians every minute of the day at whatever level that our resources allow. [crowd cheers] We do not see any U.S. or Israeli interests here, otherwise we would have set fire to them. Why do not other Muslim nations—in whose capitals these people have missions, ambassadors, charges d'affaires, offices, cultural centers—kill them? They are sitting and waiting. For what? If they were cornered, they would leave these capitals as they did in Iran. We are saddened about the course of events in Palestine and we curse Israel for it, condemn it.

Our other issue is that of elections. I do not want to delve into it except to say, brothers and sisters, that we are on the eve of elections. Let us not lose sight of our unity and let us participate in them. Do not listen to the misdeeds of some people. Participating in the elections and increasing the election register number, as well as filling the ballot boxes with votes, is like undertaking jihad on the battlefronts. The enemy is ready to say that perhaps the public will not participate in the elections and the election process is being gradually eroded. We must not give the enemy any excuses.

Regarding the battlefronts, among our definite duties is that of being present at the fronts. Take part in dispatches and heighten your support for the rear lines with your financial and other donations. We have not reached the peak although moves have been satisfactory. Not everyone has rendered service to the fronts. God willing, you will feel this sense of duty.

The enemy is drawing its last breath, God willing. If we have any feeling for the revolution—which the whole world is trying to stop from being militarily victorious—we will not travel any other route except that of being militarily victorious in military terms. [crowd cheers]

Missile Attacks, Ground Operations Continue

Missile Kills 8, Wounds 15

LD041423 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—A densely-populated residential area in Tehran was hit by an Iraqi surface-to-surface missile at 14:22 hours local time (10:52 GMT) Friday. The bodies of eight including four infants have thus far been recovered from the debris. At least 15 civilians were wounded and eight houses and 20 cars destroyed in the Iraqi missile attack.

Minutes after the explosion, a large group of Tehranis gathered at the bombed quarters chanting revolutionary slogans such as "Death to Saddam", and "Missile for missile", and calling for a firmer response by the Islamic Republic.

Tehran Residential Areas Hit

LD050334 Tehran IRNA in English 0332 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—Two Iraqi surface-to-surface missiles hit residential areas in Tehran last night and at dawn today, injuring several civilians. Some houses, a girls' school and a shop were damaged in the missile attacks.

35 Dead, 100 Injured in Attack

LD050740 Tehran IRNA in English 0738 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—Iraq's missile attack on a residential area in Tehran Friday has claimed 35 lives mainly children and women. At least 100 are reported wounded in the attack.

Missile Fired at Baghdad

LD050542 Tehran IRNA in English 0540 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—The Missile Unit of the Islamic Revolution's Guads Corps (IRGC) fired a missile at an Iraqi military center in Baghdad at 06:41 hours local time (03:11 gmt) Saturday in retaliation for previous Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities.

The Central Headquarters of the IRGC warned that Iran's Muslim combatants will severely retaliate Iraqi attacks until the war-mongering regime of Iraq discontinues its attacks on civilian towns and cities.

Iraqi Planes Bomb Dezful

LD050745 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—Iraqi war planes violated the air space of Khuzestan Province early Friday afternoon and bombed several residential areas near Dezful. The raids caused no casualty.

Tehran, Hamadan Attacked

LD051052 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—Several residential areas and a hospital in Tehran were hit in repeated attacks by Iraqi surface-to-surface missiles Saturday. Until 10.30 GMT Saturday bodies of 19 civilians were recovered from under the debris and scores of injured civilians were taken to hospitals.

Iraqi warplanes also bombed some residential quarters in Hamadan at 11:20 hours local time (07:50 GMT) today, causing no fatalities.

3 Iraqi Planes Downed 5 Mar

LD051514 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—Three Iraqi warplanes were shot down by Iranian jet fighters and anti-aircraft fire in Western Iran Saturday afternoon. Two warplanes were blasted out of the sky by anti-aircraft fire of Iran's Muslim combatants at 16:18 hours local time (12:48 GMT) while the third was downed in dog fight with Iranian jet fighters at 16:20 hours local time (12:50 GMT). Search is underway for the pilots and wreckage of the downed planes.

Iraq Bombs Residential Areas

LD051547 Tehran IRNA in English 1539 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—Several civilians were martyred and wounded when Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas in Pol-e Dokhtar, Kuhdasht and Andimeshk towns, Lorestan and Khuzestan Provinces, Saturday afternoon. Some houses and cars were also destroyed in the enemy air attacks.

Iraqi Citizens Warned of Attack

LD051716 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] With the expansion of the enemy's wickedness and aggressions, military and economic installations in all Iraqi cities, except for those situated in the four safe cities, will come under intensive air raids, missile attacks, and shelling by the fighters of Islam. Attacks on economic, military, and industrial installations in Iraqi cities will continue with force until the enemy's wicked acts are completely stopped.

In its statement the WIH declared that preventive operations carried out up to now are only indicative of a part of the battle readiness of the fighters of Islam to retaliate in kind. On the one hand, the Zionist regime of Iraq has expanded its aggressions and today the cities of Andimeshk, Kashan, Dezful, Bakhtaran, Hamadan, Pol-e Dokhtar, and Eslamabad have been made targets of that regime's evil attacks. On the other hand, international bodies and associations have not made any moves to stop the Iraqi regime and therefore the fighters of Islam will use all their might to subject all industrial, military, and economic installations in all Iraqi cities to intensive and ceaseless missile attacks and shelling.

Addressing the people of Iraq, the statement says: The Islamic Republic of Iran has never wanted to expand the war. Rather, it is the evil regime of Iraq which has attacked residential areas in Iran and forced the fighters of Islam to take retaliatory action. The Iraqi regime has repeatedly violated war regulations and laws and has trodden on international conventions and thus has shown that it does not place the slightest importance on the lives of the people of Iraq.

The WIH requests the people of Iraq to evacuate Iraqi cities immediately and to go to the four safe cities in order to escape from the intensive fire of the fighters of Islam.

Finally, this statement stresses that until the wicked acts of the enemy are completely stopped the fighters of Islam will continue their preventive and retaliatory operations with all their might.

2 Missiles Fired at Baghdad

LD051732 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—Two more Iranian surface-to-surface missiles were simultaneously fired at two Iraqi key military centers in Baghdad at 20:05 hours local time (16:35 GMT) Saturday by the missile unit of the air force of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

Central Headquarters of the IRGC announcing the above said the 15th and 16th missile attacks were in retaliation for the mounting Iraqi attacks on Iranian civilian regions.

Communique No 3,131

LD041751 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 4, IRNA—Several civilians were martyred and wounded when residential areas in Tehran were hit by two Iraqi surface-to-surface missiles Friday afternoon. Some houses were also destroyed, said a military communique here today.

The 3131st Joint Staff communique said Iranian gunboats intercepted and searched seven oil tankers and cargo and container ships Thursday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

The Islamic Republic Air Force reconnoitered the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman in support of the Navy yesterday despite warnings from two foreign warships.

Iran's Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi positions, troop concentration sites and supply routes throughout the fronts Thursday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the enemy.

In the southern fronts Thursday, at least 30 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and vast parts of enemy fortifications were set ablaze by Iranian artillery fire.

In the western and northwestern sectors, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and three heavy engineering vehicles and some tanks and supply vehicles were destroyed in artillery duels with Iranian combatants yesterday.

Iranian forces ambushed and shelled several Iraqi patrol convoys in Nahr 'Anbar and Eynkhosh, western and southern sectors, yesterday, killing or wounding a number of enemy patrols and forcing the others to flee.

Iranian artillery fire checked Iraqi engineering operations in Helaleh, Eynkhosh and Hoseyniyah and movement of enemy motorized columns elsewhere on Zobeydah-Al-Tib axis Thursday, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,132

*LD051621 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT
5 Mar 88*

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—Artillery units of the ground forces of the Islamic Republic's Army heavily shelled key industrial installations around the Iraqi cities of Mandali, Khanaqin, Banmil, Naft Khaneh, and Basra since 15:00 hours (11:30 GMT) Friday inflicting substantial casualties and damage on the enemy, said a military communique here Saturday.

The 3132nd communique of the Joint Staff Command announcing the above said the shellings were in response to recent Iraqi acts of mischief against civilian areas in iran.

The communique said Muslim combatants of Iran subjected Iraqi positions, fortifications and supply routes to their heavy artillery and mortar fire yesterday throughout the war fronts.

In the western sector, Iran's Muslim combatants foiled enemy attempts Friday to land forces in the operational region opposite Sardasht, said the communique. While in Sumar and Eynkhosh fronts Iraqi tank fire was silenced and dozens of enemy soldiers were killed or wounded and parts of their defence positions destroyed, it added.

An Iraqi patrol unit was subjected to the Muslim combatants' fire in Nahr 'Anbar region yesterday and forced to flee sustaining casualties, said the communique.

Elsewhere in Nahr 'Anbar a number of enemy forces were killed in Friday when heavy engineering vehicles of theirs were targetted by Iran's accurate artillery fire, it added.

Movement of Iraqi vehicles was checked yesterday by Iranian Muslim forces in Naft-e Shah, said the communique.

Iran's gendarmerie forces killed and wounded some Ba'thist troops in southern fronts Friday destroying Iraqi positions and bunkers, it added.

The communique further said Iranian Navy intercepted three foreign tankers in the Strait of Hormuz but allowed them to proceed voyage since they had no Iraq-bound cargo aboard.

'Substantial Damage' Inflicted

*LD052046 Tehran IRNA in English 1646 GMT
5 Mar 88*

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—Iranian fighter-bombers heavily bombed economic and military installations of Iraqi town of Kifri, Kirkuk Province, at 15:50 hours local time (12:20 GMT) Saturday. The Joint Staff Command announcing the above said all fighter-bombers returned safely to the bases after inflicting substantial damage on the pre-determined targets.

IRGC Fires Missile at Baghdad

*LD051926 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT
5 Mar 88*

[Text] Tehran, March 5, IRNA—Another Iranian surface-to-surface missile, the fourth today, was fired at an Iraqi military center in Baghdad at 21:48 hours local time (18:18 GMT) in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on residential areas in Iran.

Announcing the above here today, the Central Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) warned that Iranian reprisal attacks will continue until the Baghdad regime discontinues its attacks on Iran's civilian quarters. The attack was launched by the missile Unit of the IRGC Air Force.

Missile Attack on Tehran 6 Mar

LD060426 Tehran IRNA in English 0420 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA—A residential area in Tehran was struck by an Iraqi surface-to-surface missile at dawn Sunday. The attack caused no casualties but some damage to property. Meanwhile, several civilians were martyred when Iraqi warplanes bombed residential areas in Karaj, west of Tehran and two villages near Rasht, Gilan Province Saturday night.

IRGC Fires Missiles at Baghdad

NC060611 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] The IRGC General Headquarters issued an announcement a few moments ago stating: In order to deal a categorical response to the savage acts of the Zionist regime ruling Baghdad, the IRGC Air Force Missile Unit fired two surface-to-surface missiles at the Iraqi Air Force Headquarters in Baghdad at 0720 hours [0350 GMT] and at 0721 hours [0351 GMT] this morning. The IRGC once again warns the criminal rulers of Baghdad that the Islamic fighters will continue their retaliatory attacks on all cities of the country, except the four safe cities, with greater intensity and range until the Iraqi regime's mischief is halted.

On the other hand, following the warning by the WIH to the people of Iraq to evacuate their cities and to take refuge in the four safe cities, Baghdad was the target of three long-range missiles of the Islamic fighters last night. These missiles were fired by the IRGC Air Force Missile Unit at 0025 [2055 GMT] and 2148 hours [1818 GMT] in the direction of three important military centers of the Zionist Iraqi regime in Baghdad. In addition, the economic-military installations of Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin, Banmil, and Naft Khaneh were the targets of eight medium-range missiles of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Armed Forces. This report adds that the deterrent missile attacks by the valiant ones of the Islamic Armed Forces on these five cities was accompanied by heavy artillery fire.

Yesterday, the WIH had once again issued a communique stressing that in view of the aggression and mischief of the enemy, the economic-military installations of all Iraqi cities, except the four cities of peace, will be targets of heavy missile, aerial, and artillery attacks by the fighters of Islam. It added that these attacks will continue with full force until the enemy's troublemaking is halted.

Iraqi Planes Violate Airspace

LD060736 Tehran IRNA in English 0732 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Zanjan, March 6, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes violated airspace of the Iranian northwestern city of Zanjan several times Saturday night which were all repelled by heavy fire of the Iranian anti-aircraft units. The intruding enemy planes broke the sound barrier over Zanjan twice while fleeing.

Missiles, Bombs Hit Iraqi Sites

LD060849 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0823 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention: In the wake of the growing misdeeds of the Zionist enemy in attacking residential quarters of our country and following a warning by the WIH yesterday requesting the Iraqi people to evacuate the cities and take refuge in the four safe cities, the Joint Staff Command Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces a few moments ago made the following statement:

The brave pilots of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Air Force at 0830 this morning heavily bombed the military and economic centers of Irbil in Iraq. At 0345, 0519, 0740, and 0750 this morning, the missiles and artillery units of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Army fired four medium-range missiles followed by intense artillery fire at enemy military and economic installations in Basra and Khanaqin. Retaliatory and deterrent operations of the Islamic forces will continue with force until enemy misdeeds are halted.

Iraqi Planes Repelled

LD060856 Tehran IRNA in English 0833 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, March 6, IRNA—Several Iraqi warplanes violated the airspace of Bakhtaran Province at 08:11 hours local time (04:41 GMT) Sunday. The enemy warplanes flew over this western province for 11 minutes but were later repelled.

Planes Hit Residential Areas

LD061046 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] In continuation of the savage attacks by the warmongering Iraq regime on our country's residential areas, at 1100 and 1200 today invading Iraqi aircraft attacked some residential areas of Ilam and Marivan, martyring or injuring a number of our compatriots and wrecking a number of houses.

According to a report from the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, one of the invading Iraqi planes was shot down by the defensive fire of the Iranian Air Force at 1155 today in the western part of the country before it was able to carry out its mission.

'Heavy Losses of Life'

LD062034 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] The war-mongering regime of Iraq in continuation of its atrocities, last night and today too subjected Tehran and some other cities of Islamic Iran to missile attacks and air raids. A great number of civilians were either martyred or injured during these aggressions. The cities of Karaj, Ilam, Borujerd, Marivan, Do Rud, Khorramabad, Miandoab, Shushtar, Sanandaj, Arak, Saqqez, Dezful, Nahavand, Kerman, as well as some villages near the city of Rasht too, were subjected to air raids by the aggressive regime of Saddam during last night and today.

As the result heavy damage was inflicted and another group of people were either martyred or injured. Latest reports received indicate that tonight also the Iraqi regime subjected some residential regions of Tehran city to its missile attacks, causing heavy losses of life and property.

'Ecomilitary Centers' Hit

LD061117 Tehran IRNA in English 1108 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA—Iranian fighters heavily pounded ecomilitary centers of the Iraqi cities of Irbil and Tuz Khurmatu and enemy positions and troop concentration sites in Sharhani and Faqqeh, southern fronts Sunday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses, according to a joint staff communique here today. The communique said that the fighters returned safely to bases after their sorties at 08:30, 10:00, 10:10, 10:35, and 12:35 hours local time (05:00, 06:30, 06:10 and 07:05 GMT).

Communique No 3,131

LD061923 Tehran IRNA in English 1737 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed eco-military centers of the Iraqi cities of Irbil, Tuz Khurmatu and Chamchamal and also enemy positions and troop concentration sites in Sharhani, Faqqeh, and Al-'Amarah Sunday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on the enemy.

The 3131st Joint Staff communique, announcing the above, said here today that all fighters returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out their bombing missions which took place at 08:30, 10:00, 10:10, 10:35, 12:35, 15:20 and 15:25 hours local time.

In Western Iran, continued the communique two Iraqi warplanes were shot down by Iranian jet fighters and anti-aircraft fire at 11:55 and 13:38 hours local time (08:25 and 10:08 GMT) Sunday. The first enemy plane was blasted out of the sky by anti-aircraft fire while the other was downed in a dog fight.

At 03:45, 05:19, 07:40 and 07:50 hours local time Sunday, four Iranian medium range missiles were fired at economic and military centers of Basra and Khanaqin cities, eastern and southern Iraq, as a result of which heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy.

Iranian long range artillery fire inflicted considerable losses on Iraqi military, economic an oil installations in the towns of Badrah, Zurbatiyah, Carmahraz [placename as received], Mandali, Halwan, Naft Khaneh, Hayasorkh [placename as received], Khanaqin, Maydan and Dhu Shaykh over Saturday night and Sunday morning.

On the battlefields, Iraqi troops sustained heavy losses in men and equipment in artillery duels with Iran's Muslim combatants Saturday.

Iranian combatants spotted and shelled two Iraqi patrol convoys in Nahr 'Anbar and Yebis, western and southern sector, yesterday, inflicting several casaualties on them and forcing them to flee.

Elsewhere, in Nahr 'Anbar yesterday, Iraqi forces sustained several casualties and a number of enemy trucks were set ablaze when a column carrying Ba'thist troops was shelled by Iranian combatants.

Meanwhile in the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's naval gunboats successfully carried out their routine patrol mission but no cases of suspicious cargo was found. Naval frogmen detected and defused a mine at 18:00 hours local time (14:38 GMT) yesterday.

The Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Saturday, providing excellent air cover for the Navy, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Air Raid on Shiraz

LD062046 Tehran IRNA in English 2030 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA—Intruding Iraqi planes violated the airspace of Shiraz, Fars Province tonight and bombed a residential quarter in the city. The attacks caused some damage but no casualties.

Meanwhile, Iraq's latest missile attack on Tehran at 19:48 hours local time (16:18 GMT) did not inflict any casualties.

In another development, the Baghdad regime admitted the downing of one of the two planes planes shot by Iranian fire today.

Missile Fired at Baghdad

LD070344 Tehran IRNA in English 0340 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—An Iranian surface-to-surface missile was fired at the Iraqi capital at 23:47 hours local time (20:17 GMT) Sunday. The attack was in response to recent Iraqi missile and air attacks on civilian areas in Iran.

The Islamic Republic has vowed to severely respond to Iraq's inhuman and cowardly military attacks on non-military quarters in Iran.

A statement issued by the General Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) said the missile was fired at a military center in Baghdad. "The Muslim combatants' retaliatory operations will strongly continue until the enemy stops its mischiefs," it vowed.

Iraqi Missile Kills 12

LD070851 Tehran IRNA in English 0847 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—At least 12 civilians are reported martyred and another 30 wounded in an Iraqi missile attack on Tehran Monday morning. Among those martyred are a number of children and women. The latest Soviet missile damaged several homes, a clinic and 30 automobiles and public buses.

Iraqi Raids Kill 61 Civilians

LD070913 Tehran IRNA in English 0825 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 7, IRNA—Iraqi air attacks on civilian quarters in various Iranian cities and towns Sunday have claimed 61 civilian lives and wounded 427 others.

Ilam, Sanandaj, Saqqez, Arak, Khorramabad, Do Rud, Toyserkan [placename as received], Borujerd, Miandoab, Shushtar, Nahavand, Dezful, Qazvin, Bakhtaran, Marivan, and Shiraz were target of Iraqi air attacks and shelling.

Tens of shops, homes, schools, and hospitals were also destroyed in the Monday Iraqi attacks. Meanwhile, Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran Sunday wounded eight residents and damaged several homes.

Iraqi Forces Shell Marivan

LD070935 Tehran IRNA in English 0924 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., March 7, IRNA—Iraqi Ba'thist forces shelled Marivan since Sunday morning up to 22:00 hours local time (18:30 GMT) Sunday night. There were still no reports on possible damage and casualties.

Targets in Al-Mawsil Bombed

LD071039 Tehran IRNA in English 1028 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—Iranian fighter-bombers in retaliation for Iraqi attacks on Iranian cities pounded Iraq's economic installations and military bases in Al-Mawsil, 170 kms inside Iraq at 08.10 hours local time (04:40 GMT) Monday. all planes returned to bases safely after inflicting heavy damage on Iraqi installations.

IRGC Navy Attacks Targets

LD071054 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Excerpts] The General Headquarters of the IRGC has issued a statement announcing: The brave personnel of the IRGC Navy, third region, in a successful attack on Iraq's Al-Umayyah jetty last night, killed some of its crew and destroyed its installations. [passage omitted]

Also, fighters of the Navy coastal artillery and IRGC Ground Forces artillery yesterday and today inflicted a great deal of damage on the military installations at Umm Qasr port and the towns of Basra, Al-Imara, Al-Qarnah, and (Al-'Aziz).

Iraqi Warplanes Attack Arak

LD071114 Tehran IRNA in English 1050 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes violated the air space of Central Province and bombed some residential areas in Arak city at 12:40 hours local time (09:10 GMT) Monday. There was no immediate report on possible casualties and damage.

2 Missiles Fired at Baghdad

LD071320 Tehran IRNA in English 1313 GMT 7 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 7, IRNA—Two Iranian surface-to-surface missiles were fired at two military centers in Baghdad at 15:00 hours local time (11:30 GMT) Monday in retaliation for continued Iraqi missile and air attacks on Iran's civilian areas. The missiles were fired by the missile unit of the Air Force of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

Volunteers for Front Sought

LD051653 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1625 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Excerpts] Dear listeners and friends, I now invite you to listen to a statement by the Public Relations Office of the Sarallah (?Division).

O martyr-nurturing ummah. O heroic Basijis. Now that the Ba'thist Zionist enemy is subjecting our country's residential areas and our women and children to his cruel missile attacks, we should bravely rise and defend our country, its honor and integrity, and deal a strong blow to the oppressors. We should rise and give a crushing reply to the enemy on the battlefronts, for the enemy is weak and understands no language but force. The fate of the war can only be determined on the battlefronts with the bravery of your offspring.

All volunteers for redispatch and (?training) can take part in the dispatch of the Imam Hasan Mujtaba forces to revenge the blood of the martyrs of enemy missile attacks. [passage omitted] The date of dispatch from Tehran is Tuesday, 8 March 1988. With God's help, victory is nigh.

Support for Bombed Areas

LD051801 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the headquarters for support for bombed areas issued a statement briefing the dear citizens of Tehran and all other provinces threatened by bombardment. The statement says that according to a circular from the prime minister's office, all ministries and government organizations and Islamic Revolution organizations are at the service of the hezbollahi ummah 24 hours a day, and during the weekends as well, until further notice. The necessary planning for cooperation with the people to provide facilities and to plan ahead in order to minimize the damage from the Ba'thist Zionist enemy's bombardments is proceeding in the form of relief groups in coordination with support headquarters. Also, the entrance to all shelters and buildings facing all ministries, organizations, and schools will be open to the people 24 hours a day.

Another part of this statement said: All over those provinces threatened by enemy's air raids headquarters have been formed under the supervision of governors general. During all hours of the night and day all government and private facilities are used to help the hezbollahi ummah. All these headquarters have supply services, relief, housing, treatment, shelters, repairs and renovations, education and publicity commissions which continue their all-round efforts. As a result of the steps taken by the headquarters for support for the bombed areas, necessary facilities and equipment for housing, food, and treatment of the victims have been prepared ahead and supplied. In these cases there is no cause for alarm.

The statement further adds: In all damaged areas relief headquarters are organized. They immediately identify the damaged areas and do repairs; then reconstruction is carried out as soon as possible.

Finally, the statement says: All damage caused by the bombardment—including repairing household goods, reglazing, reconstruction of houses, replacing destroyed cars, and reconstruction of damaged schools and hospitals—is immediately taken care of. The dear compatriots can contact the following telephone numbers for more information: 616776, 660862, and 6162448.

Tehran Commentary on Iraqi Missile Attacks

LD051311 Tehran Domestic Service in persian 1030 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Political commentary: "War of Cities: Continuation of Iraqi Regime's War Crimes"]

[Excerpts] After 5 days of the Ba'thist Iraqi regime's missile and air attacks against our Islamic homeland we are witnessing the praiseworthy resistance of the martyr-nurturing Iranian nation. [passage omitted]

Why is it that Eastern and Western governments and supporters of human rights in the world are prepared to place new and destructive weapons at the disposal of a regime such as Iraq? Is this not participation in the war crimes of the Saddam regime? What benefit does a country receive from placing such equipment at Saddam's disposal to destroy residential areas and kill innocent people? Will the heroic and resisting Iranian nation ever forget such hostile measures?

Although the Soviet Government has denied it has equipped the Iraqi regime with military hardware, the Russian markings on the wreckage of the missiles tells a different story. Bearing in mind the category of the weapon—which can in no way be used without the authority of the country that manufactured it—there is evidence of Russian involvement. In this context, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran summoned the Soviet ambassador to the Foreign Ministry and lodged an official protest. Meanwhile, yesterday, Tehran University students staged a march on the Soviet Embassy demanding that the USSR cut off its assistance to the Baghdad regime. [passage omitted]

If the probable motive behind the Iraqi regime's decision to resume the war of the cities is to impose Security Council Resolution No 598, or to secure approval for the Security Council's second resolution on an arms embargo against Iran, or, if according to some observers, it is to retaliate for the positions adopted by the Islamic Republic on the issue of Afghanistan, one must say that none of the Iraqi regime's last-ditch efforts can dent the resisting Iranian nation's determination to crush the aggressor.

Even international political circles and the world's mass-circulation newspapers have been unable to conceal their admiration for the calm prevailing in the bombed areas. International news agencies and correspondents reporting on the situation in Tehran and Baghdad and comparing the two have admitted the futility of the Saddam regime's last-ditch efforts. The experience of the war of the cities—a war heightened by the Zionist Baghdad regime with its military and propaganda assistance from the superpowers—has always proved the fact that missile and air attacks cannot intimidate a nation that has risen to vindicate its rights. The Iraqi regime's recent acts of mischief will be answered by retaliation from the fighters of Islam. The aggressive Ba'thist forces should expect a decisive response at the battlefronts.

Flag of Freedom on Iraqi Missile Attacks

TA041818 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] Our fellow strugglers have reported from Tehran that in the course of Iraq's missile attacks on Tehran in the past 4 days, some 5,000 persons have been killed or wounded and a large number of homes, government buildings, and medical centers have been destroyed.

In the course of yesterday's Iraqi missile attacks on Tehran, heavy damage was inflicted on the Zhaleh power station, Nowbakht Street, the [Darya-ye Nur] District, and Iranshahr Street. This report affirms that the damage inflicted on the Zhaleh power station was very severe.

Another report indicates that the residents of the neighborhoods of Pol-e Rumi and Ferdowsi Square suffered numerous casualties and much damage from the Iraqi regime's missiles.

Malaysian Finance Minister Ends Visit

LD050715 Tehran IRNA in English 0708 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, March 5 IRNA—Malaysian Finance Minister Daim bin Zainuddin and his accompanying delegation left here Saturday after a four-day visit and talks with Iranian Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani, and a group of other officials.

In his talks here the Malaysian minister reviewed with Iranian officials the ways and means for promoting Tehran-Kuala Lumpur's political, economic and cultural relations.

The two sides also agreed to expand bilateral cooperation in trade banking, customs, agriculture and cattle breeding.

A letter of understanding signed between Malaysian and Iranian delegations envisages Malaysia's imports of Iranian carpets, handicrafts, fresh and dried fruits, dates and caviar in return for export of raw material such as tin, rubber, caoutchouc, wood and fertilizers.

The agreement also anticipates formation of a joint economic commission to be chaired by Iranian and Malaysian economic and financial ministers in Tehran and Kuala Lumpur alternately.

Assesses Talks Before Departure

LD051102 Tehran IRNA in English 0852 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 5, IRNA—Malaysian Minister of Finance Daim bin Zainuddin who left Tehran Saturday morning at the conclusion of a four-day visit, described his talks with Iranian officials highly useful and positive.

Speaking at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport before departing he said that talks were held in a friendly atmosphere, adding that his visit had brought the two nations closer together, and that it also paved the way for expansion of bilateral economic relations.

According to Zainuddin a Malaysian banking delegation is to visit Tehran in the near future to make necessary banking arrangements for direct trade between the two countries.

The Iranian Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani termed the visit of the Malaysian finance minister successful.

The value of trade exchanges between the two countries in the first nine months of the current Iranian year (ending 20th March, 1988) stood at dls. 8.5 million which the Iranian minister said is expected to increase once a banking agreement has been signed between the two countries.

Pakistan

India Assailed for Terrorism, Siachen Charges

BK061609 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Excerpt] Minister of State for Defense Rana Naim Mahmud has rejected India's allegations that Pakistan is helping the terrorist and separatist elements in India. He was speaking in the Senate concering an adjournment motion introduced by Maulana Kausar Niazi about the alleged statement of the Indian president in this connection. He said it is not the first time that the Indian leaders have leveled such malicious and unfounded allegations. The minister of state for defense reiterated that Pakistan is opposed to terrorism in any form and has offered to sign a treaty with India under which the two countries can prevent the use of their soil for any activities against each other's internal peace, stability, and territorial integrity. The mover did not press his motion after the statement of the minister of state.

Speaking on identical motions moved by Maulana Kausar Niazi, Prof Khurshid Ahmad, and Tariq Chaudhary, the minister of state for defense said Pakistan has conveyed its profound concern to India over the Indian prime minister's recent statement in which he claimed sovereignty over the Siachen area. He said India has been told that the Indian prime minister's statement is particularly unacceptable and preposterous in view of the agreements which were finalized between the Pakistani president and the Indian prime minister in December 1985 in New Delhi and again between the prime ministers of the two countries in November 1987 in Kathmandu for a peaceful and negotiated settlement of the Siachen conflict.

Rana Naim Mahmud said he hopes such statements will not be repeated by India in the future so a congenial atmosphere can be maintained for peacefully negotiating the settlement of all disputes. The movers again did not press their motions after the statement of the minister of state. [passage omitted]

Former Official on Nuclear Energy Needs
BK041019 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 4 Mar 88

[Text] A former Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission chief, Dr I.H. Usmani, has refuted the Pakistan Government claim that it needs nuclear technology to meet its energy requirements. Speaking to newsmen in Karachi, he said the country has got the potential to produce 20,000 megawatts of hydroelectric power from the Indus Basin tributaries. Dr Usmani also strongly opposed the Chashma nuclear project and said it could be a high earthquake risk. He advocated setting up of solar energy-based projects.

Senate Rejects Freedom of Information Bill
BK060818 Islamabad Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] The Senate today rejected the Freedom of Information Bill 1985. The minister for justice and parliamentary affairs, Mr Wasim Sajjad, while winding up the debate, said that the bill was unnecessary at the moment because all the information about government's activities can be provided to the public through parliament. He said the bill was also debated in the standing committee for 2 years and the committee found that further legislation regarding information was not necessary.

Briefs

New Air Force Chief

Air Vice Marshal Hakimullah Khan has been promoted to the rank of air marshal and appointed to the post of chief of air staff. He will take over this post on Tuesday [8 March] from Air Chief Marshal Jamal Ahmad Khan, who is retiring upon the completion of his regular term of office. [Text] [*Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 5 Mar 88 BK*]

Sri Lanka

18 Killed, 23 Injured in Trincomalee Blast
BK051257 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 5 Mar 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 18 civilians were killed and 23 others injured when a land mine blew up a truck in which they were traveling in Serunewa police station area in eastern Trincomalee District today. Most of the killed and injured are believed to be Sinhalese. The first report reaching Colombo said that the injured have been rushed to the hospital and the area has been cordoned off.

Government Postpones Homagama By-Election
BK050639 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0620 GMT 5 Mar 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Mar 5 (LANKA PUWATH)—The government yesterday gazetted the postponement of the Homagama by-election scheduled for March 21st, 1988. A new polling date has been set.

Authoritative sources said the postponement was motivated by security considerations. Since nominations were received, one UNP activist has been killed and only a spirited public response prevented a Gramasevaka from being murdered at Homagama, 16 miles east of Colombo, last week.

Jayewardene Speaks on Provincial Council Power
BK061144 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 6 Mar 88

[Text] The provincial councils will be given wide power to function within a unitary state. Once these councils became operational, between 400 and 500 persons will be directly involved in the work of administration. This was stated by President J.R. Jayewardene when he addressed the National Executive Committee meeting of the ruling United National Party at the party headquarters at Sri Jayewardenepura [words indistinct] yesterday. He said that elections to four provincial councils are expected to be held in mid-April while voting in respect of other councils will be held later.

Referring to the recent massacre at Morawewa, the president said that 98 percent of those living in the village attacked by terrorists were Tamils. There were only a handful of houses belonging to Sinhalese. The two communities lived in a friendship at this hamlet.

The president pledged to increase the strength of the Sri Lankan Army to protect Sinhala villages in the Eastern Province. The occasional incidents of this nature showed that the power of northern terrorists have [words indistinct] and Mr Jayewardene sought the cooperation of all to weaken the terrorists in the east before long.

The minister of National Security, Lalith Athulathmudali, told the delegates that democratic parties should not support violence in the hope of gaining political advantage. He said that democracy is being threatened by a group of armed persons bent on violence and it was the duty of the institutions involved in the security and other democratic organizations to negate this threat.

Cuban Official Meets With Foreign Minister

BK031137 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Mar 88

[Text] A nonaligned ministerial meeting will be held in Havana to prepare for the third United Nations special session on disarmament. Cuba briefed Sri Lanka on the progress made so far in the forthcoming meeting.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Shahul Hameed stressed that the nonaligned movement has a very important role to play in ensuring the successful outcome of the special session. He made this statement when a Cuban diplomat called on him in Colombo on Tuesday. He is the Cuban deputy minister of foreign affairs, Mr Giraldo Mazola Collazo, special envoy of the Cuban foreign minister, Mr Isidore Malmierca.

The Cuban deputy minister handed over a letter from Mr Malmierca to Mr Hameed. Discussions between them centered on matters of bilateral interest and the recent developments in international affairs. Mr Hameed briefed the visiting Cuban deputy minister on the current situation in Sri Lanka and in the region. Mr Mazola apprised the Sri Lankan foreign minister of Cuba's views on developments in the Latin American region.